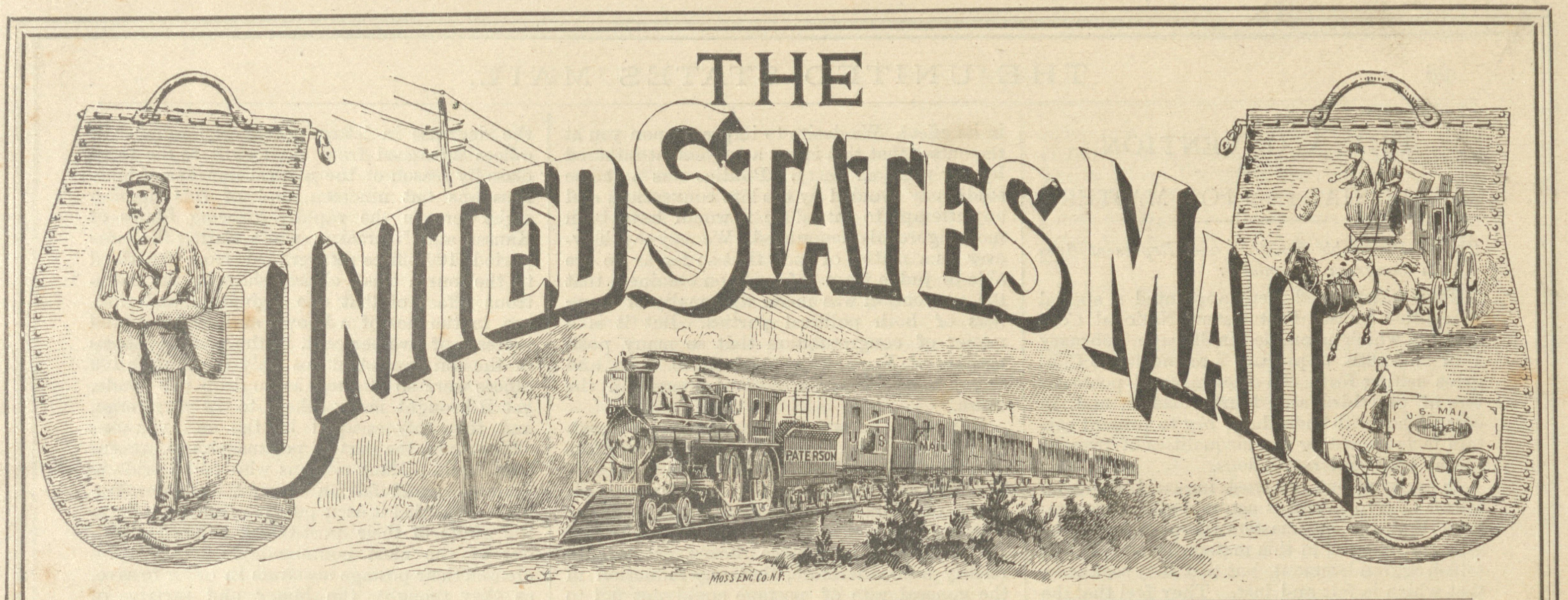
THE UNITED STATES MAIL



VOL. II. NEW YORK—CHICAGO, APRIL, 1886. No. 19

THE POSTMASTERS' MUTUAL BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

WE have received numerous inquiries concerning the reliability and character of the Postmasters' Mutual Benefit Association, and in reply would say that we don't know anything about it, what its plan or system of operation may be, or whether it has got any at all or not.

Mr. TOM G. BRADY, P. M., at Buckhannon, W. Va., writes that he does not think the Postmasters' National Convention gave it any authority to undertake to transact business, but simply to get such an Association *incorporated*, when a full and complete organization would then be effected, which was our idea exactly.

Mr. BRADY also desires to know how much of a bond the Treasurer gave, and who *approved* it, and who is in possession of the bond; to none of which questions can we give an answer, for the simple reason that we don't know.

We *do know*, however, that no Postmasters' Mutual Benefit Association can be successfully inaugurated under the control of but six men. There must be officers and directors and trustees from every State, and it must have the *approval* of the National Committee.

OMITTED CONTRIBUTORS.

THE names of the following persons were contributors to the Convention Expense Fund, but their names were accidentally omitted from the published list in our March issue:

P. J. Forbes, Seneca, Ill., $1; William Young, Pestone, Ill., 50c.; P. Lattnor, Worthington, Ia., $1.; Thomas J. See, Cactus, Tex., 50c.; N. Godes, Preston, Ia., 50c.; L. A. Lincoln, Mazo Marine, Wis., 50c.; G. L. Dunlap, Dunlap, Ill., 50c.; G. C. Warren, Stockton, N. Y., 50c.; Annie Elvins, Hammonton, N. J., $1; James R. Scott, Edgewood, Ill., $1; Rebecca McGlothlin, Gleeson Station, Tenn., 50c.; A. A. Green, Hillville, N. H., 30c.; H. O. Haukness, Albert Lea, Minn., $1; W. J. Nolan, Bridgewater, Dak., $1.

We would remark that we have nothing whatever to do with the remittances made to local committees or to delegates, but are only responsible for moneys sent to Chicago.

THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

WE have never been instructed as to how we should make our report as Treasurer of the National Executive Committee, but in order to have it *straight* and satisfactory, we shall have it examined and certified to by at least two Post-office Inspectors. We shall not publish the names of the contributors or the report until in our June issue.

REDUCING MONEY-ORDER FEES.

Copy of a Letter Sent United States Senators.

CHICAGO, ILL., April 15th, 1886.

Dear Sir—I have communicated by circular letter with over 1,000 postmasters throughout the country, in relation to the Bill which recently passed the House and is now in the Senate, reducing the fee on money-orders of $5 or less from 8 to 5 cents, and the universal verdict is that it is an unnecessary measure, uncalled for by the public, and would be a useless waste of the just and legitimate revenues of the postal service, now so greatly below its expenditures. The feeling is, that whatever may occur in the future in regard to lowering the rates on money-orders, the present is the most inopportune moment that could be selected for such reduction. There is no earthly reason why it should be done! The fact is, ten cents is sufficiently low for a money-order of the smallest denomination, and if you pass the proposed law, you will simply reduce the rate to a figure six cents below its actual cost to the Department to issue it. Dr. Macdonald, the author of the Bill, has time and again estimated that the cost of issuing a money order of any amount, is eleven cents. Then why is it proposed to lose three cents additional to the sum now lost? The reason given is, because the money-order system brought a net revenue to the Government last year over its expenses of every character, of $123,543.75. Dr. Macdonald undertook to secure the same enactment two years ago, when his net profits were even greater than at present, and yet he is compelled to acknowledge that had the reduction taken place, the loss to the Government would have been $84,390.42. If such a measure was untimely then, when the Department was self-sustaining, would it be prudent now, when its receipts are $8,381,571.41 less than its expenses.

But suppose it is not according to the spirit of the people that the money-order system should become a money-making institution, why reduce the fees on small orders so far below their actual cost, and yet retain the rate on large orders so greatly in excess? Why not treat all classes of the community fairly in such matters, instead of catering only to certain classes? There is neither justice nor fairness in such legislation!

The thing to do is to raise the fee on small orders of $5 or less to ten cents, and reduce the fees on larger orders in like propertion, and thus equalize their cost to the public. You cannot increase the business of the system by reducing the rates on the small orders to a figure below that now in force, for all who want money orders at all will not be influenced in getting them by the difference between eight and five cents. If it is desirable to catch new business, then reduce the fees on the large orders so as to decide people in favor of a money order as against a bank draft. That is the only way in the world it can be done.

The money-order system is a drag and a nuisance to every third and fourth class post-office where it is in operation, and all because it requires so much of the postmaster's time and attention to attend to the business and make out his reports, and, too, because he is allowed such a pitiful, beggarly sum for his service. The postmasters are ground to death by the ridiculous fee of three and a half cents for the issuing of each order, and there is widespread and universal discontent thereat, and nineteen-twentieths of them would be glad to get rid of the business entirely.

It seems to be the policy of the present head of the Money Order Department to squeeze the postmasters into pulp in the matter of compensation for their services, and all for the purpose of building up for the management of the system a great reputation for fine strategical and financial skill.

But I do not desire to weary you with remarks concerning the proposed measure. I only intended to convey to you the feelings of one thousand postmasters regarding Dr. Macdonald's Bill, and I ask you to kill it so dead that it will never be heard of again. If there was any public demand for such a measure it would be different, but there is not! There is no call for it, and I trust that you in your wisdom will see it in the same light. I have the honor to be,

Yours, very respectfully,

JOHN H. PATTERSON,

Editor UNITED STATES MAIL.

THERE is an epidemic of post-office robberies going on now. Be careful.

THE Postmasters' Bill has been read twice, and referred to the Committee on Post-offices and Post-roads. It is No. 7,474.

M. C. BURNETT has been the postmaster at Black Earth, Wis., for twenty-one years, and yet he is not rich—and we doubt whether he is happy.

THE Gallatin, (Mo.) office has been supplied with a new Yale & Towne outfit and is now one of the handsomest post-offices in that State. The new P. M. is a live man.

THE Committee appointed by the third and fourth class postmasters at their Convention held in Chicago not long ago is in Washington this week, endeavoring to secure increased remuneration for the labors of the individuals it represents. The reductions in postage and other changes in postal arrangements which have taken place of late years, in the absence of corresponding changes in their pay, have affected these public officers unfavorably, and they have a valid claim for relief which ought to meet with proper consideration and action. —*New York World.*

THE CONVENTION.

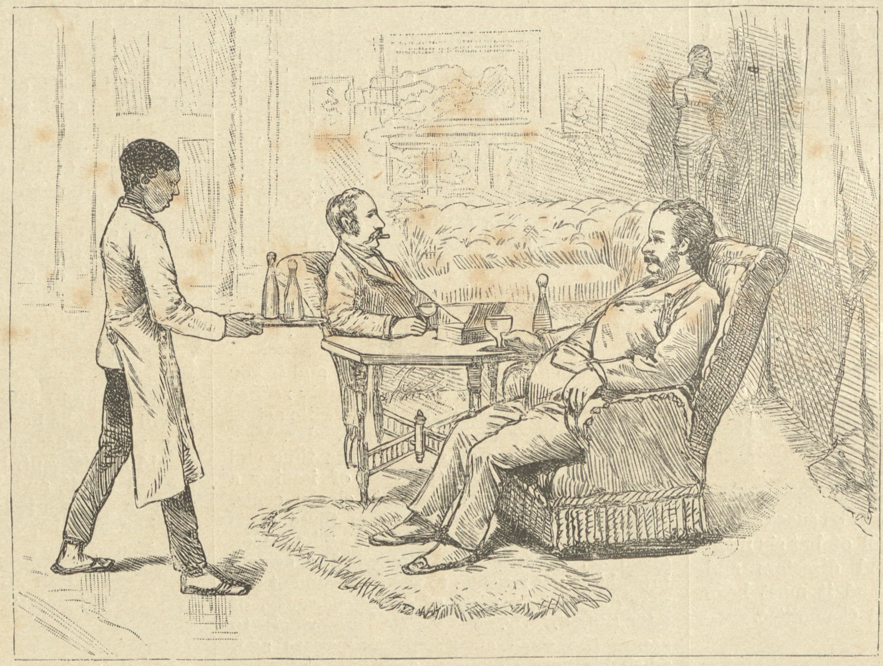
A MEMORIAL FROM POSTMASTERS.

To the Honorable Senators and Representatives in Congress assembled:

THE undersigned were appointed a special committee by the Postmasters' National Convention, which assembled in Chicago, February 15th and 16th, to prepare a memorial to Congress setting forth the grievances of postmasters of the third and fourth classes, and, in compliance with their duty, beg to present certain facts regarding the inequalities of present postal laws and regulations.

In carrying out the trust imposed, the committee begs to assure Senators and Representatives that the postmasters whom they represent are actuated in this matter by no spirit of selfish aggrandizement, but that they seek only that which is fair and just. They feel that the justice and liberality which are recognized factors in the general policy of the Government in the treatment of its employés have been denied them by the operation of existing laws. They do not assume, however, that there has existed any *hostility* upon the part of Congress toward postmasters as a clsass, but they are inclined to believe that the present state of things exists solely because you have not been fully informed as to the hardships they have been called upon to endure.

We have no mysterious or unsupported assertions to make regarding our work, and it is far from our purpose to undertake to mislead you in respect to the operation of present postal laws, for their inequalities are so plain and so palpable that even a cursory examination of the subject will reveal their existence.



FIRST-CLASS POSTMASTER--SALARY $6,000 PER ANNUM.

It would seem almost unnecessary to call your attention to the delicate and confidential relation a postmaster holds to the public at large. There is no officer of the Government of either high or low degree who comes so near the heart of the people as he; nor is there any function of the Government that has as much to do with the social and business interests of the country as the *post-office*. As our cities grow and expand, as their wealth increases, great post-office buildings become a public necessity, until millions upon millions of dollars have been invested in property of that character, and no complaint has ever, as yet, been made by the people, where these immense structures have been erected, that too much money was expended upon them; and the large number of Bills that are introduced into Congress at every session providing for the erection of Government buildings in the pretentious cities of the country only shows how anxious the people are for a magnificent post-office and how much interest they take in postal affairs. The post-office is, in fact, the magnet around which the commercial and industrial interests of the country revolve. When business is prosperous or when trade is backward, its condition is as surely indicated by the transactions of the post-office as is the direction of the wind by the action of the weather-vane. The post-office, too, keeps pace with the church and the school-house, and is as necessary to our progressive civilization as either of them, and we claim that too much consideration cannot be bestowed upon a system so far-reaching in its influence and so vital in its effect. We desire to impress upon you at the outset that this is not a movement fathered by any political party. Politics was a theme studiously avoided by the late convention, and any attempt to introduce it would have been most vigorously denounced. We may say, however as a matter of fact, that so far as we are able to judge from information obtained, that the convention was made up equally of members of both political parties. But it is a matter of congratulation that so many postmasters of Republican faith have been, and are, taking such an active interest in the cause.

It is well known that the salaries of postmasters are based upon the aggregate receipts of their offices. These receipts, in offices of the third and fourth classes, consist almost entirely of moneys arising from the sale of stamps, stamped envelopes, postal cards and the rental of post-office boxes. It will be readily seen, therefore, that any reduction in the general rate of postage could not fail to result in the lowering of salaries based upon receipts of postage in almost the exact proportion by which the rate is lessened. It has been the settled policy of Congress to provide the people with the amplest postal facilities at the smallest possible expense, and reduction in postage has been the order of the day; the letter rate having been reduced from three to two cents, while the unit weight has been advanced from a half to an ounce. Then, in still further pursuance of this line of action, the rate on second-class matter was reduced from two to one cent per pound when sent out by publishers, and the unit weight increased from two to four ounces when sent out by others than publishers.

It seems to have escaped the attention of Congress that these sweeping reductions, while being wonderfully beneficial to the public and a magnificent testimonial of legislative wisdom in meeting the wants of the people, could not help but affect disastrously all salaries based upon receipts from postage, and we claim that when these reductions were made, the effect of which was undoubtedly intended to increase the quantity of mail matter handled in every office, and at the same time cut down the gross receipts, the relation of compensation to labor performed should have been so fixed that postmasters would be, at least in part, protected against the reductions in their incomes which have been the result of that legislation.

Now, in support of this proposition we need only refer you to the following facts, deduced from the report of Postmaster-general Vilas to the present Congress: In the year following the decrease in letter postage the number of offices advanced from the fourth to the third class by reason of the natural increase of business was but nineteen, and of this number eight were in the rapidly growing States of Kansas and Nebraska; while during the same period 109 offices retrograded from the third to the fourth class, clearly showing the disastrous effect of that one reduction, and that, too, in the face of a known and demonstrated increase of five per cent. in the postal business of the country. And not only that; while 109 offices were so affected as to drop one grade, yet it brought many others to the very verge, and they only escaped by the most vigorous efforts upon the part of postmasters to prevent that result. Many citizens who had a pride in their town and felt an interest in its development regarded it as a positive disaster to have the grade of their post-office reduced; and, out of the most commendable motives, increased their postage accounts in order to save, as they thought, the honor and prestige of their city; and it was only by such exertions as these that many were saved. The people generally take pride in the fact that their post-office is of the Presidential grade, and regard it as a substantial evidence of the growth and prosperity of the town when their post-office is advanced from the fourth to the third class; and, likewise, they view with alarm any lowering of its grade.

But even if the reduction in postage had produced the anticipated result of increasing the postal business of the country to such an extent as to prevent any decrease of compensation to postmasters, yet it does not require a mathematician to demonstrate that even in that event they would be expected to perform one-third more labor than before, while the pay remained the same. If it was the purpose of Congress to deal fairly by us, then it becomes a clear proposition that when our duties were augmented our commissions should have been increased.

Another matter which is of great interest to all third-class offices, as well as to a large number of those of the fourth, is the subject of office expenses. These expenses consist of rent, light, fuel, clerk-hire, stationery, and other incidentals. In all offices of the first and second grades allowances are made by the Department covering all such expenditures, so that under no circumstances do the salaries of such postmasters suffer any diminution on account of such outlays. But in third-class offices located in many towns but slightly inferior in importance to those containing second-class offices, and whose citizens need, and rightfully demand, as well-located, convenient, and well-appointed offices, in every respect, as those of the second class, postmasters are compelled to liquidate all such expenditures out of their salaries or their private funds.

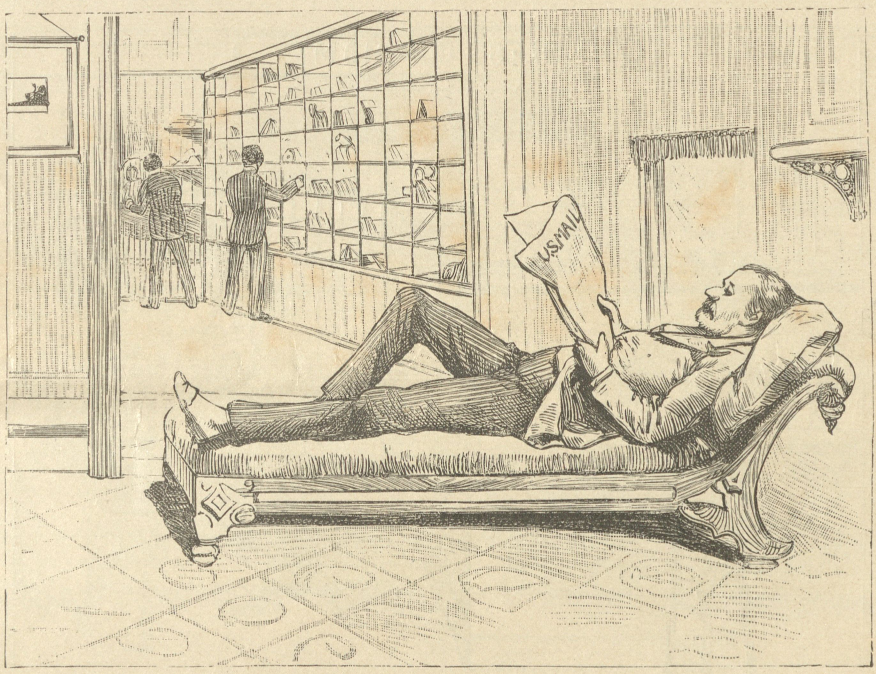
And it is a well-known fact that in some instances towns of general inferior commercial importance contain second-class offices simply because of the fortunate possession of some school or college or large industrial establishment whose use of the mails produces sufficient postal revenue to throw the office into the second grade. A third-class office may be located at the intersection of two or three railroads; it may be a growing, thriving, prosperous community, and the work of the office, in its separation and distribution of the mails, may be extremely excessive and severe, but yet the gross receipts of that office may entitle the postmaster to a salary of only $1,900—all his expenses for rent, light, and fuel, and the bulk of his expenditures for clerk-hire, must be liquidated out of his own pocket. Not so, however, with the incumbent of a second-class office located in a town, perhaps, of even less population than the other. His town may be practically lifeless, possessing no elements of prosperity, but yet, because, of the fortunate possession, as before stated, of some school or college or some one or two large manufacturing establishments, his office is raised to the dignity of the second class and the Government steps in and pays all his office expenses.

The postal law at present in force specifically denies to postmasters of the third class any assistance whatever toward meeting the reasonable demands of their patrons, permitting them to retain from the receipts of their office their salary and nothing more, except, perhaps, the pittance allowed for clerk-hire. The question of rent is one of the most serious moment. Every community demands and expects that the post-office shall be located at the most accessible point in the town, no matter what the rent may be, and they feel, too, that their office should be supplied with all the latest and most approved fixtures, never taking into consideration that the expense of all such paraphernalia must be borne by the postmaster himself. And we can assure you that instances are by no means rare where, after paying all the expenses of their offices, there are postmasters whose salaries will not compare with those received by their clerks.

The attention of Congress has been repeatedly called to this great injustice in the reports and recommendations of the Department, and we are glad to able to cite you to the fact that the present efficient First Assistant Postmaster-general has taken the most favorable view of the matter, and recommends to your consideration every concession we ask for. He says:

> "In the Act approved March 3, 1885, a proviso was incorporated giving the Postmaster-general discretionary authority to lease premises for use of post-offices of the third class from July 1st, last, but provision for the payment of rent was not made. That is, the Postmaster-general was authorized to make disbursements for rent of premises leased for third-class offices out of the appropriation for rent, fuel and light for the present fiscal year. This appropriation, however, was $10,000 less than the sum estimated for first and second class offices."
>
> "Postmasters at offices of the third class are now compelled to pay the expenses of rent, light, fuel, stationery and miscellaneous items, and in some cases a part of the clerk-hire. It is a hardship to compel these postmasters to pay these expenses from their salaries or from their private funds. As stated by the Postmaster-general last year (see report of the Postmaster-general for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1884, page 20), there is no reason why these expenses should not be paid at third-class offices as well as at first and second class offices."
>
> "I renew the recommendation, therefore, that provision be made for the payment of rent for offices of the third class. I am of the opinion, also, that the Government should provide for the payment of expenses for fuel, light, stationery and miscellaneous items for these offices."

And we may observe, in connection with the above, that there is not only a desire upon the part of the Department to make such an allowance, but the general public would most emphatically approve of it, for we are fortified by the presence of hundreds upon hundreds of petitions, signed by thousands of persons, who ask that you come to our relief. And with but two or three exceptions, all the leading journals of the country have expressed themselves as favorable to our cause.



SECOND-CLASS POSTMASTER—SALARY $3,500 PER ANNUM.

Now in further referring to this feature of our complaint, we are reminded of the fact that there is no other branch of the service of the Government where its employés are required to transact a large, intricate and responsible business without being furnished with all the necessary facilities to properly conduct it. It has remained, however, for Congress to require postmasters of the third and fourth classes to provide at their own expense everything necessary to transact the business of their offices, and to protect the public property, for which they are held to such strict account. In offices of the classes named, the postmaster, from his own means, must provide a satisfactory outfit of boxes, furniture and fixtures of every description, including desks, conveniences for keeping the blanks, and a suitable safe for the security of Government funds and valuable letters. In fact the only articles furnished by the Department are the dating and canceling stamp and the letter scale. It would seem no more than just and fair that where the Government transacts a large and confidential business like that of a post-office, that it should provide the necessary fixtures and appliances to properly conduct it.

The question of compensation to postmasters at the smaller separating post-offices for the large amount of extraneous labor they perform is a matter of great moment to hundreds of worthy men, and should receive your careful and considerate attention. The complaints from this source are numerous, and only those who are advised upon the subject can form any idea of the onerous character of the work they perform and for which, in many instances, no compensation whatever is received. There are many offices where the labor involved in the separating and distributing of mails for other offices is equal to one-half the entire work of the office; and their arrival and departure are at such unseasonable hours as to compel them to be at their offices from early morning until late at night.

This service is so exceedingly exacting and the compensation so very inadequate whenever any allowance is made, that it is almost impossible to retain clerks for that service, many of whom enter upon it and remain long enough to learn the scheme of distribution and then suddenly quit, leaving the postmaster to do the work himself as best he may, and, as a consequence, the public is made to suffer. We doubt whether there is a third or fourth class postmaster in the United States who is allowed as much for clerk-hire as he is compelled to pay out. General Stevenson, the First Assistant Postmaster-general, speaking upon this subject in his first annual report, says;

> "Clerks in post-offices should be fairly compensated for their services. Their hours of duty are long, and their work, to be efficiently performed, requires close attention and study. Separating clerks, or clerks at offices of the third and fourth classes, where mail is distributed for other offices, merit favorable attention. Many of these clerks are not paid enough to induce them to take proper interest in their work." (See Annual Report for 1885, p. 222).

We would also beg to respectfully call your attention to some inequalities in the money-order business and ask relief therefrom. We are confident that we represent the exact sentiment of every third and fourth class postmaster of a money-order office when we assert that there is not one such postmaster but would gladly pay to the Government, from his salary each year, a sum equal to all commissions derived from the money-order business, could such payment relieve him entirely from the transaction of such business. This is, perhaps, neither the time nor place for detailed statistical statements, but to the few general observations we may present, we cordially invite the fullest investigation. Every postmaster's experience will corroborate our assertions, and about their correctness there can be no doubt.

We claim that there is no adequate compensation for the transaction of the business, neither in view of the responsibility assumed nor the labor performed. In any other business it would seem almost ridiculous to consider 50 cents to $2.00 per week sufficient compensation for the transaction of a business considered of such importance that a separate bond of from $2,000 to $5,000 is required to insure its faithful performance; but in this service the figures quoted quite fairly represent the responsibility assumed and the pay received. When the compensation is considered in the light of the labor performed, the result is even less creditable to the Government. We do not hesitate to say that, in the average third and fourth class money-order offices, the weekly fees received will but little more than pay for the actual risk involved in the daily transportation of the funds received to the designated depository to which they must go before the postmaster's responsibility ceases. An expert copyist can only make fair wages at a rate of ten cents per 100 words; but in the service in question men who are not experts are compelled to perform this class of work at an average of less than five cents per 100 words, or less than one-half of what is considered adequate in any other business.

There is probably not a third or fourth class post-office conducting a money-order business where the actual work involved will not consume one third of the postmaster's entire time, provided he attends to it in person, and yet it brings to him, as a rule, not one-twentieth part of the income which he derives from his office. The postmasters would be more patient with regard to this money-order business did they see, even with economical management and the allowance of insignificant commissions for the work, the Department could barely make its income from the service meet its expenses in conducting it; but when they see a vast surplus fund gathered together every year as the result of the grinding process to which they are subjected, then they feel that the time has come to present their side of the story to Congress and let it judge of the hardships to which they are subjected. The surplus revenue last year from the money-order business alone was $408,933.20, which is ample evidence that the fees charged the public for the issuing of money orders are too high, or the compensation allowed postmasters for the transaction of the business is entirely inadequate. We have some of the most startling facts and figures regarding the labor performed in the conduct of the money-order business, which we will be glad to lay before your committees whenever it may be their pleasure to receive us.

The postmasters' convention also instructed us to address you upon the subject of mailing letters upon trains. This has come to be a serious source of loss to many postmasters throughout the country and calls for a speedy remedy. While many persons are actuated in the matter by a desire to curtail the revenues of post-offices, yet there are many who do so simply as a matter of convenience, not thinking or caring as to the effect it may have upon the salary of the postmaster. This is not only an unfair way in which to treat an officer of the Government, but it is a wrong which should be abated, and we appeal to you to apply a remedy.

In this connection we beg to call your attention to the reference made to this matter by Postmaster-general Vilas in his first annual report, in which he most eloquently and incisively enters into the merits of this question. We may say, however, that it was the sentiment of the convention, that the surest and speediest way to prevent such injustice is to change the rate of postage on first-class matter when mailed on postal cars, from two to four cents per ounce.

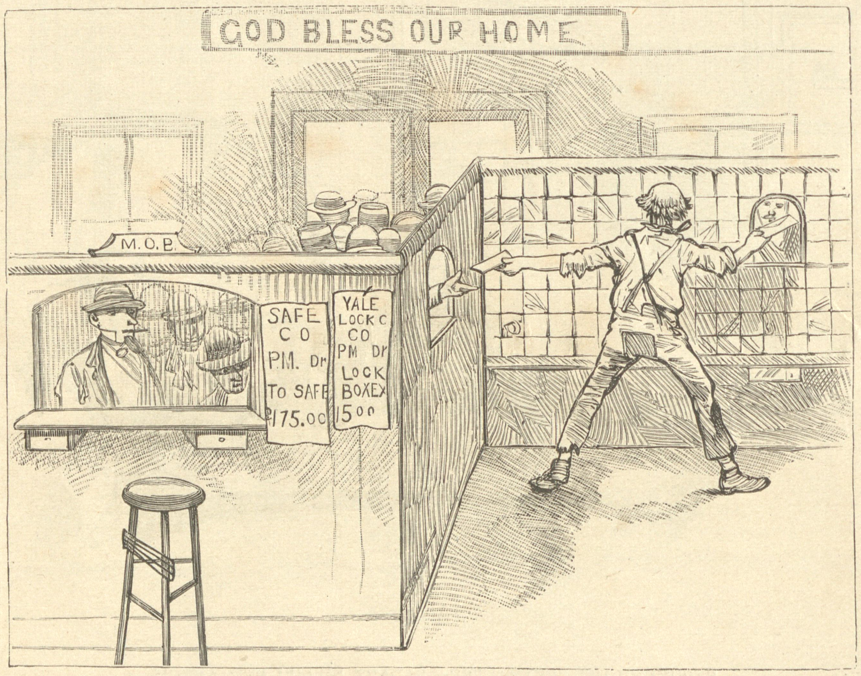
And, finally, gentlemen, we beg to commend our cause to your consideration. We do not come to you as Republicans or Democrats, but as fellow-citizens who are officers of the Government, seeking relief from unjust and unfair discriminations. It is the first time in the history of the Government that any organized attempt has been made upon the part of postmasters to secure legislation in their own behalf, which fact we trust will not operate against us at this time, now that we have placed our grievance before you. While you legislated in the interest of the people in reducing letter postage, and were especially considerate to the press in cutting off fifty per cent. on second-class matter, yet we have been the sufferers, and we cannot believe that you would systematically legislate in the interest of the people and the press to our detriment. Almost every grade of postal officials have secured legislation except postmasters, and they have stood back waiting only for some one to make a move. There are 51,000 in the two classes we represent, and we ask from you not sympathy, or kindness, but pure and unadulterated *justice*.

We are possessed of many facts and figures regarding the points we have undertaken to briefly lay before you in this memorial, which we would be glad to personally present to the Post-office Committees of the Senate and House, and respectfully ask for permission to appear before them and make our claim, and subject ourselves to any inquiries they may be pleased to institute.

Very respectfully,

JOHN H. PATTERSON, *Chairman.*
J. G. JOHNSON,
SAM. A. RISLEY,
Committee.

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., *March* 26, 1886.


GOD BLESS OUR HOME
M.O.B.
SAFE CO P.M. Dr To SAFE $175.00
YALE LOCK CO PM Dr LOCK BOXEX 15.00

THIRD-CLASS POSTMASTER—SALARY $1,000, AND FINDS HIS OWN SAFE AND BOXES.

POSTMASTERS AS "STRIKERS."

A Reply to the Criticisms of "The Times."

CHICAGO, Feb. 22.—*To the Editor:* It was not my intention at first to have replied to your editorials of last Wednesday and Saturday, but at the request of numerous postmasters who have written me upon the subject I beg permission to offer a few remarks.

There is not a postmaster in the land who would be unwilling to allow *The Times* to assume any position it may deem proper upon any of the great questions of the day, and there is no objection to your opposition to the wants of the postmasters as expressed at the late convention; but all who have written me upon the subject are incensed that you should class them with "party directors," "nihilists," "dynamiters," "teetotallers," "fanatics," and other "cranks," just as if the postmasters of the United States have lost all their rights as American citizens simply because they happen to hold a position of trust under the Government.

Those gentlemen assembled in Chicago to further the interests of the public as well as their own, and they were actuated only by the best of motives in so doing. There is at this time scarcely an interest, commercial or industrial, that is not represented by national associations, and I consider it more of a shame and a disgrace that Republican postmasters did not combine together twenty years ago to further their own ends and those of the postal service, instead of at this late day; for there is every reason why they should and none why they should not. The post-office is the only Government institution that comes near to the heart of the people, and it has more to do with the advancement and prosperity of the country than any other of its beneficent provisions. How important, then, that officials of that class come together for conference to ascertain, as men having practical experience in the administration of the postal service, where it can be bettered and rendered more efficient! If you are laboring under the impression that the only motive of the late convention was one of greed and gain, you have been very greatly misinformed.

Your intimation that it was made up exclusively of Democrats does it the grossest injustice. While I cannot state positively as to the exact number of each political faith in attendance, yet a fair and just estimate would place them about half and half. But politics had nothing whatever to do with the call for the convention. We made no inquiry as to the political antecedents of any man attending, but invited any one to come who felt inclined to do so. Neither party can properly be charged with the responsibility for the convention, and whatever of blame there may be attached to it should lie exclusively upon the shoulders of the writer. I issued the call for the preliminary meeting which resulted in the convention, and I penned every document that was issued by our committee in relation to the convention, and I am willing to take my reward or censure as an indulgent public may declare.

It is evident that the writer in *The Times* who sought to enlighten the public upon the questions at issue was not fully posted upon the subject in hand, else he would not have stated that there are five classes of post-offices, whereas there are but four, and never have been any more.

Neither was there any effort upon the part of the convention to put third-class offices upon the same plane, in point of salary, with those of the first and second. The idea was simply to put them upon an equality in the matter of their expenses being liquidated by the Government instead of out of their income. As it is now, every third-class postmaster in the land is compelled to pay all of his expenses, of rent, light, fuel, and other incidentals, out of his salary as postmaster, while every dollar of outlay in the first and second grades is met by the department. There is no justice in this discrimination, and every Postmaster-general we have had for ten years has recommended the very relief these men now seek. Only last Sunday *The Times* published a letter from Hon. H. H. Bingham, of Philadelphia, for the last ten years a member of the House Post-office Committee, conceding these very points; and he has even gone so far as to advocate them upon the floor of Congress. In fact, the acquiescence of Congress with this view of the case puts a clincher upon all adverse argument, when I state, as you do, that at the last session a Bill was enacted giving the Postmaster-general discretionary power in the matter of applying a part of the appropriation ($490,000) to offices of the third class, but as the sum appropriated was too small even for the first and second, of course there was nothing left for those of the third, and the law became inoperative.

The manner you would indicate for these postmasters to end their sufferings is to resign. That argument is unworthy a great journal. Because the laws may be oppressive to a certain class of office-holders, the wrong is not righted by their withdrawal, but rather only serves to make it the more apparent. The writer of the editorials the postmasters complain of may strike for a more liberal compensation some of these days, and it may be that his education and general competence may commend him to your serious consideration for advancement; but how would he be pleased if, on making his application, he was met with this remark: "Well, sir, it is all right for you to ask for increased salary, but if you don't like the pay at present allowed, we know of no law to compel you to remain in our employ." Arguments such as the one I refer to are two-edged, and sometimes return to confound the person using them.

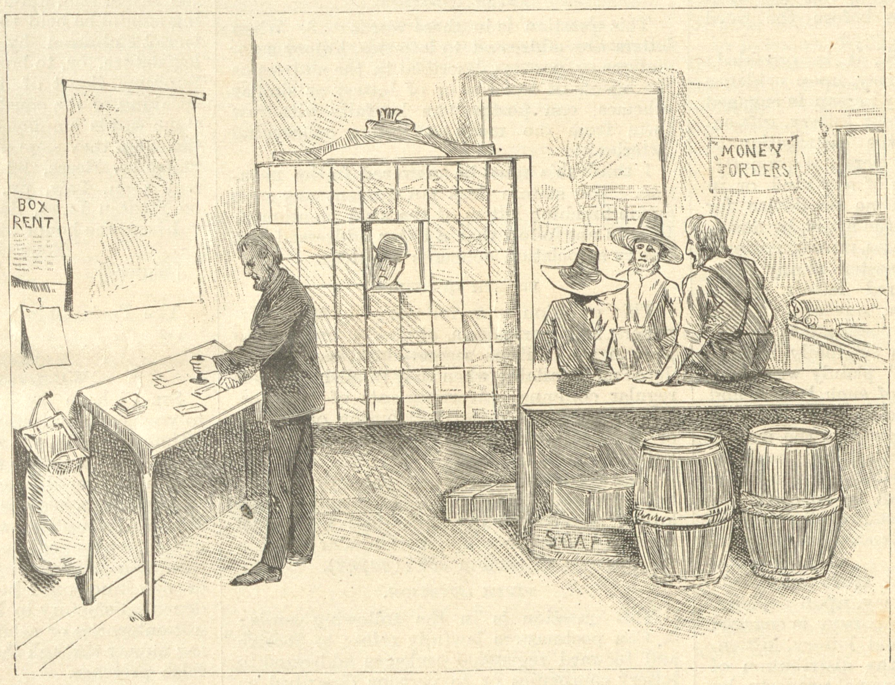
The late convention was a success. Those who attended were at first strangers to each other, but their acquaintance has ripened into friendship, and they, with a thousand others, will return a year hence and take hold of these questions with far more intelligence than that which marked their first attempt to solve them. Everything must have a beginning.

John H. Patterson,
Editor *United States Mail.*

FOURTH-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

The Wilson Bill.

Washington, March 2.—The Bill introduced by Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, to increase the postage upon fourth-class matter, is for the benefit of country merchants. The cost of shipping merchandise in the mails is so small that people in all the villages throughout the country are doing all their shopping by post, and millions of dollars' worth of patronage has been transferred from the country stores to the city merchants. "Very few women now," said a gentleman who is here in the interest of this Bill, "think of buying a silk dress at the village store, but they send to New York or Chicago for samples, and buy in that way. They have the advantage of a greater variety to select from and get the goods at a lower price, while there is no risk in dealing by mail with a house of established reputation. All of the large dry-goods establishments in commercial cities have mail departments, clerks who do nothing but attend to mail orders and fill them, and the consequence is that the trade of the country merchants is reduced just so much. This Bill, which is to increase the postage on fourth-class matter, will do something, but not much, toward protecting them."



FOURTH-CLASS POSTMASTER —SALARY UNKNOWN.

While the country merchants have been urging the passage of this measure there has sprung up a very decided opposition from agriculturists throughout the country, because seeds are classified as fourth-class matter, and the Bill would double the present rate of postage on these, which are now transported in large quantities by mail. In order to meet the objections of this class, Senator Wilson has introduced a second Bill, which proposes to amend the present laws so as to transfer from fourth-class to third-class matter seeds, bulbs, and plants of all kinds, which would make the rate on seeds one cent for each two ounces.—*The Inter-Ocean.*

A FATED MAIL-CARRIER.

Gory Reminiscences of an Indian Butchery Received at Washington.

Washington, February 10.—Superintendent Jameson, of the Railway Mail Service, has received a blood-stained leather mail-bag from the West, which had been slit open with a knife. It bore the following information from Mr. Wasfield, Superintendent of the Western Division: "The Indian Question, as it applies to the Post Office Department.—About 2 P. M. on July 23d, 1885, while F. M. Peterson, mail-carrier on the route from Crittenden to Lochiel, Pima County, A. T., was on his return trip from Lochiel, the Apache Indians killed him. After murdering the carrier the Indians cut open the pouches and destroyed the mail, tearing it into fragments, and scattering it over the ground. Two pouches were carried. The one herewith was left on the scene of the tragedy, and bears the sanguinary stains of the victim."

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS.

Senator Warner Miller's Bill.

Washington, March 4.—The Senate Committee on Post-offices and Post-roads has under consideration Warner Miller's Bill to establish a savings bank system under the Post-office Department. It is not a new idea by any means, but Mr. Miller has some new features in his Bill that are highly commended. It provides that all money-order offices shall issue stamps of the denomination of ten cents, to be known as "postal savings stamps; and shall also furnish and keep for the use of purchasers of such stamps at each sub-depository, cards upon which such stamps, when sold, shall be affixed and canceled by the postmaster selling the same, said cards to be known as "postal saving cards"; and any depositor presenting to any proper sub-depository a postal savings card with postal savings stamps duly affixed and canceled to the amount of $3, shall be entitled to receive the same pass-book credit as though the sum had been deposited in lawful money, said sale, canceling and credit to be made under such rules and regulations as the Postmaster-general shall make. The Postmaster-general shall also provide by regulation for the redemption of postal savings cards to which stamps of a less amount than $3 have been affixed and canceled.—*The Inter-Ocean.*

ANOTHER OLD POSTMASTER.

To the Editor of the World:

In the *World* of Feb. 6th, Mr. Leonard J. Thomas says that he has been postmaster at Eden, Me., for more than fifty years, and supposes himself to be the oldest postmaster in office in the United States. While making a business visit to Mr. Roswell Beardsley, postmaster at North Lansing, Tompkins County, N. Y., a short time ago, he showed me his commission, issued by John Quincy Adams in 1828, and told me that he had held the office continuously since that time. This makes him outrank Mr. Thomas in length of service by several years. Mr. Beardsley is a type of the substantial country merchant, and, like Mr. Thomas, he has been throughout the time he has held office an old-fashioned Democrat.

Very respectfully, E. L. Crowell.

Seneca Falls, N. Y., Feb. 9.

A POSTMASTER INDICTED.

Mr. Speers, of Denver, in Trouble.—Political Animosities at the Bottom of the Affair.

Denver, Col., March 5.—Yesterday the Federal Grand Jury, in session at Pueblo, found an indictment against R. W. Speers, postmaster at Denver, for alleged irregularities regarding the pre-emption law. It is charged that the indictment is an outrage, and was procured by the political enemies of Mr. Speer, who desire to have the United States Senate refuse his confirmation.

A QUESTION OF RIGHT.

Leopold Helman, a well-known young business man, was arrested recently by Deputy United States Marshal Costello upon the charge of opening letters not belonging to him. His arrest is the outcome of a series of suits brought by him in the courts of this city. He was for some time Secretary and Treasurer of the Barkley Manufacturing Co. He had invested $10,000 in the concern, and claims that he was promised the position of Treasurer. He further claims that the other stockholders froze him out and held on to the money he had invested. The letters he opened were a part of the mail of the company, and he insists that it was his privilege as a stockholder in the company to look over the affairs and to examine the mail whenever he saw fit.

A few days ago he brought suit in the Superior Court of this city to recover the amount that he had invested in the manufacturing company. He tells a straight story. The other stockholders claim, however, that he had no right to open the letters, and seem disposed to force matters.

He gave the necessary bond, and the case was set for hearing at an early day.—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

A STRICKEN CONSCIENCE.

Washington, March 13.—The Postmaster-general, on the 6th of last December, received a letter postmarked "Cheyenne, Wyoming," in which the writer asked the assistance of the Department in finding the rightful owner of $140, inclosed. The letter is signed "From a Christian," and states that in 1864 or 1865 the writer stole a letter from the post-office at Peru, Neb., containing $40, and again in 1866 or 1867, while temporarily in charge of an express-car at North Platte, Neb., a letter containing $125 was handed him for tranmission by a soldier then stationed there. From this letter he took $100, mailing the letter with the balance of the money. Although twenty years have elapsed since the thefts were committed, the postal authorities have at last succeeded in finding the right owner of the $40, and payment to Enoch Riggles, of Plum Wallow, Iowa, has been ordered. Further efforts will be made by the Department to find the owner of the $100.

LEGAL OPINIONS

BY

HON. A. H. GARLAND,

ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

The Powers of the Postmaster-general and Postmasters in Preventing the Use of the Mails to Promote Lotteries.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
WASHINGTON, 16th Dec., 1885.

SIR—The questions propounded for opinion in your communication of the 19th of November, ultimo arise upon the following provisions of law:

By Section 3894, R. S., it is provided: "No letter or circular concerning (illegal) lotteries, so-called gift concerts, or other similar enterprises, offering prizes, or concerning schemes devised and intended to deceive and defraud the public for the purpose of obtaining money under false pretenses, shall be carried in the mail. Any person who shall knowingly deposit or send anything to be conveyed by mail in violation of this section shall be punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars nor less than one hundred dollars, with costs of prosecution." (R. S., p. 758.)

This was amended by Act of July 12, 1876 (19 Stat., p. 90), by striking out the word "illegal" where it occurs before the word "lotteries."

By Section 3929 R. S., it is provided: "The Postmaster-general may, upon evidence satisfactory to him that any person is engaged in conducting any fraudulent lottery, gift-enterprise, or scheme for the distribution of money or of any real or personal property, by lot, chance, or drawing of any kind, or in conducting any other scheme or device for obtaining money through the mails by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises, instruct postmasters at any post-offices at which registered letters arrive, directed to any such person, to return all such registered letters to the postmasters at the offices at which they were originally mailed, with the word 'fraudulent' plainly written or stamped upon the outside of such letters, and all such letters so returned to such postmasters shall be by them returned to the writers thereof, under such regulations as the Postmaster-general may prescribe. But nothing contained in this Title shall be so construed as to authorize any postmaster or other person to open any letter not addressed to himself." (R. S., p. 763.)

By Section 4041, R. S., it is provided: "The Postmaster-general may, upon evidence satisfactory to him that any person is engaged in conducting any fraudulent lottery, gift-enterprise, or scheme for the distribution of money, or of any real or personal property, by lot, chance, or drawing of any kind, or in conducting any other scheme or device for obtaining money through the mails by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises, forbid the payment, by any postmaster, to any such person, of any postal money-order drawn to his order or in his favor, and may provide by regulations for the return, to the remitter, of the sums named in such money-orders. But this shall not authorize any person to open any letter not addressed to himself." (R. S., p. 778.)

By the Act of March 3d, 1879 (20 Stat., p. 360, Sec. 20), it is provided: "That mailable matter of the fourth class shall embrace all matter not embraced in the first, second or third class, which is not in its form or nature liable to destroy, deface, or otherwise damage the contents of the mail-bag, or harm the person of any one engaged in the postal service, and is not above the weight provided by law, which is hereby declared to be not exceeding four pounds for each package thereof, except in case of single books weighing in excess of that amount, and except for books and documents published or circulated by order of Congress, or official matter emanating from any of the Departments of the Government or from the Smithsonian Institution, or which is not declared non-mailable under the provision of section 3893 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by the Act of July 12, 1876, or matter appertaining to lotteries, gift-concerts, or fraudulent schemes or devices.

FIRST QUESTION.

This question is as follows: 1. Whether these several statutes render non-mailable, letters and circulars concerning lotteries?

As Section 3894 (*supra*) prohibits the carrying in the mail of any letter or circular concerning lotteries, and makes it penal to send anything in violation of the said prohibition, it follows that letters and circulars known, and not merely supposed or suspected, to be concerning lotteries, are non-mailable.

SECOND QUESTION.

This question is as follows: 2. Is it the duty of postmasters to withdraw from the mails such letters as they know to be concerning lotteries; and such circulars as they find upon examination to be concerning lotteries, etc.

Unsealed circulars may, by inspection, be known to concern lotteries or not, and when they do may be properly withheld from the mails, as prohibited matter, and so may letters, if known to concern lotteries. It must, however, be in rare instances that the contents of letters can be known, as they are generally sealed and inviolable.

THIRD QUESTION.

This question is in these words: 3. When letters are addressed to lotteries, lottery associations or persons described in the address as the agents of lotteries or of lottery or similar schemes, can postmasters lawfully withdraw them from the mails as letters concerning lotteries?

I think this must be answered in the negative. The statute does not warrant any such action touching letters of the kind mentioned. It does not follow that a letter addressed to a lottery association concerns a lottery.

FOURTH QUESTION.

This question is as follows: 4. Are newspapers and periodicals, otherwise entitled to pass in the mails as second-class matter, rendered non-mailable when they publish, in their regular columns, advertisements of lotteries, or similar schemes for distribution of money or property by lot or chance or offering prizes?

I do not think that a newspaper or periodical is rendered non-mailable by containing a lottery advertisement. This does not transform the newspaper into a "Circular" within the purview of section 3894 (*supra*).

FIFTH QUESTION.

This question is in the following words: 5. Can postmasters lawfully refuse to receive and forward registered packages addressed to lottery companies or to persons described as agents, officers, or managers of lotteries or other similar enterprises offering prizes?

This should be answered in the negative. The law, Sec. 3929 (*supra*), does not go so far. It authorizes the return of registered letters addressed to parties found and declared by the Postmaster-general, upon satisfactory evidence, to be engaged in conducting a "fraudulent lottery." To reject such matter as non-mailable would be to violate the statute, which must be interpreted by its own words, and, furthermore, would be to assume an identity between a lottery and a fraudulent lottery, in the face of a seeming distinction between the two in the statute.

SIXTH QUESTION.

This question is in these words: 6. Can postmasters lawfully refuse to sell money-orders payable to lottery companies, or to persons described in the orders as agents or officers of such companies or concerns?

This question must be answered in the negative. Section 4041 (*supra*) cannot be so extended by implication. Its words, which are plain, must have their ordinary sense, and cannot be understood to warrant the denial of an application for a money-order to be made payable to a lottery dealer. The law goes no further than to authorize the Postmaster-general to order the refusal of payment of any money-order payable to a person who has been found, upon satisfactory evidence, by him, the Postmaster-general, to be engaged in conducting a "fraudulent lottery."

SEVENTH QUESTION.

This question is as follows: 7. Has the Postmaster-general any legal authority, upon being satisfied that a concern or company is conducting a lottery, gift-enterprise, or scheme for the distribution of property by lot, chance or drawing of any kind, to forbid postmasters generally from registering packages or selling money-orders made payable to such concerns or to their known agents, on the ground that it is unlawful to convey in the mails any matter that is concerning lotteries?

If a letter is known to contain matter concerning a lottery it may be withheld from the mail. But it does not follow, necessarily, that a registered package addressed to a lottery dealer or a money-order made payable to him appertains to his business of lottery dealing. Such evidence certainly would not sustain a prosecution for sending by mail a letter concerning lotteries. I think, therefore, this question must be answered in the negative.

In answering these questions, I have proceeded on the principle that the legislation in question should not be extended by construction. It is, to some extent, penal and very much in derogation of the general right to use the mails, and, upon a well-settled rule, nothing should be held to be within such laws that is not embraced by the very words of the legislature, or, to borrow the language of the Supreme Court of the United States, when speaking of the construction of penal statutes, "the words employed must be understood in the sense they were obviously used." (United States vs. Reese, 92 U. S., 219; Ledg. Stat. and Com. Law, pp. 250, 302, 329; Bishop on Written Laws, Sec. 119.)

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
[Signed] A. H. GARLAND,
Attorney-general.

The Postmaster-general.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
WASHINGTON, *January* 7, 1886.

SIR—I have the honor to submit, in reply to your communication of the 21st December, ultimo, that, in my opinion, the Postmaster-general has no right to instruct postmasters to return registered letters or forbid them to pay money-orders because addressed or made payable to an individual conducting a lottery, gift-enterprise, scheme for the distribution of money or property by lot, chance or drawing of any kind, until he has found "upon evidence satisfactory to him," that such lottery, gift-enterprise or scheme is a means of obtaining money through the mails by falsehood and false pretense.

I think it beyond doubt that Congress, in Section 3929 (Rev. Stat.), intended to draw a distinction between lotteries, etc., fairly, and lotteries, etc., dishonestly, conducted.

I do not think that because a lottery or gift-enterprise or scheme for the distribution of property may be illegal by the law of the State where it is carried on, it is, for that reason alone, fraudulent under Section 3929 (*supra*), it being clearly the intention of Congress, as I have said already, that before the above-mentioned mail facilities can be denied to persons carrying on lotteries, etc., it must be shown that their business involves a use of those facilities for obtaining money fraudulently.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Yours, very respectfully,
[Signed] A. H. GARLAND,
Attorney-general.

The Postmaster-general.

Postmasters Must Comply with Regulations in Remitting Money-order Funds.

The Postmaster-general:

SIR—I have considered the questions in the case of the postmaster at ——, which were submitted to me in your letter of the 14th of December last.

As stated by you, the case is this:

"On the 29th of November, 1884, the postmaster there had on hand $381 surplus money-order funds, which by the regulation she was required to deposit in a depository office named, and was required to remit the same in registered packages in the mail. In order to preserve evidence of such remittance, of a character that admits of no contradiction, special instructions are given as Section 1099 Postal Laws and Regulations. (Here follows that section.)

“As will be seen, the above regulation requires that, in every case of a remittance of money-order funds made by means of paper money, the postmaster should be able to prove by at least one disinterested witness that the money was actually inclosed in a properly registered package addressed to the postmaster at the post-office designated to receive the deposit, and, furthermore, that said package with the money inclosed therein was securely locked in the mail pouch, and was taken from the post-office and out of the postmaster's possession by the contractor, employé of the railway-mail service, mail-carrier, or other person duly authorized to dispatch the same to its destination. The regulation also provides that, should the remitting postmaster fail to comply with the foregoing instructions, he will be required, if the money is lost, to make good the amount.

“Miss Wallace (the Postmaster at Washington) states that she scheduled the money for remittance, and inclosed it in an envelope properly sealed and addressed on the night of November 29th, and placed it in a large iron safe during the night, together with other packages, to be forwarded in the mail train which passed at eight o'clock the following morning; that the next morning she went to the post-office, took the registered packages and locked them in the mail pouch, and they were duly forwarded. At the Hope Post-office the bag was found to be cut, and the whole bundle of letter packages, some twelve in all, were reported missing, amongst them the one in question, and have never been found; and there is much evidence justifying suspicion that the packages were stolen in the last-named office. She thereupon duly presented her claim for credit under the Act of March 17, 1882, chap. 41.

“The evidence in the case showed that she had no witness as required by regulation 1099, P. L. and R., of the several steps in preparing and forwarding the remittance, although a credible witness happened to be present in the morning and casually saw her put into the mail-pouch packages tied together and appearing to be registered matter, and remembers the fact, although not then called upon to witness it.

“The regulation was adopted and promulgated before the passage of the Act of March 17, 1882, and has never been modified or changed by the act of the Postmaster-general, but has been applied in many cases.”

In connection with the foregoing you submit the following questions:

1. Whether the Act of March 17, 1882, above cited, operated to annul the requirement of regulation 1099, so far as it declares that the postmaster shall make good the amount in case the regulation is disregarded?

2. If the regulation be in force, has the Postmaster-general the right to disregard it in a particular case, where he is satisfied that the postmaster has in fact made the remittance, but has failed to have witnesses to the transaction, as the regulation requires?

The Act of March 17, 1882, in so far as it relates to the loss of money-order funds, confers upon the Postmaster-general power to grant relief to postmasters in the following cases: (1) Where the funds, while in the hands of the postmaster, are lost by burglary, fire, or other unavoidable accidents; (2) Where the funds, being remitted by the postmaster, are lost or stolen while in transit. The present inquiry is confined to the provision of the statute and the regulations of the Post-office Department applicable to cases of the latter description only.

The statutory provision just adverted to authorizes the Postmaster-general “to credit postmasters with the amount of any remittances of money-order funds made by them, in compliance with the instructions of the Postmaster-general, which shall have been lost or stolen while in transit by mail from the office of the remitting postmaster to the office designated as his depository.” This provision does not annul regulation 1099, which embodies “special instructions about remittances,” but rather recognizes it as a duty of postmasters to comply therewith in making their remittances. And as the authority to credit them with lost remittances is limited to cases where the remittance is made in compliance with the instructions of the Postmaster-general, such compliance forms a necessary element in each case to bring it within the statute.

The Postmaster-general may undoubtedly amend or modify the existing regulation or instructions upon the subject of these remittances; but the amendment or modification could only be made to apply to cases of loss thereafter happening. Cases of loss which have already occurred must be viewed with reference to the instructions in force at the time of their occurrence; the Postmaster-general has no dispensing power as to them; for while in force and operating, they are as binding as if they were statutes; and if in any such case there has been failure on the part of the postmaster, in making remittances, to comply with the instructions, the loss is not one for which, under the Act of 1882, the Postmaster-general is authorized to give him credit.

Agreeably to the foregoing considerations, I answer both the questions submitted by you in the negative.

I am, sir, very respectfully,
[Signed] A. H. GARLAND,
Attorney-general.

LEGAL OPINIONS

OF

HON. EDWIN E. BRYANT,

Attorney-general for the Post-office Department.

Liability of Postmasters for the Theft or Negligence of their Clerks.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF ASSISTANT ATTORNEY-GENERAL,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 9th, 1886.

HON. WM. A. WEST, *Chief Inspector P. O. Dep't:*

SIR—Your communication of date 2d inst., refers to me for opinion the case of the Postmaster at ——. It involves the question of the postmaster's liability for a sum of money stolen by one of his sworn assistants or clerks from a registered letter in the post-office, to the sender or owner of the money thus abstracted.

The liability of the postmaster to make good the loss to the sender or owner in such case, appears to be well defined by sundry decisions.

It is said in Keenan vs. Southworth, 110 Mass., 474: “The law is well-settled, in England and America, that the Postmaster-general, the deputy postmasters, and their assistants and clerks, appointed and sworn, as required by law, are public officers, each of whom is responsible for his own negligence only, and not for that of any of the others, although selected by him and subject to his orders.”

This was a case where the letter was lost by the negligence or wrongful conduct of the postmaster's clerk, and the postmaster denied any participancy or knowledge.

The case of Dunlap vs. Munroe, 7 Cranch, 242, brought this subject before the Supreme Court of the United States. The declaration alleged that the contents of a letter had been fraudulently or improperly secreted, withheld or taken by the postmaster, Munroe, or some other person employed by him. The Court held that, under an allegation that the postmaster was negligent and the loss had occurred through his negligence, it was incompetent to prove the negligence of his clerk or assistant. The Court, in defining the rule of his liability in such a case, and the proper mode of presenting it in pleading, say: “The distinction between the relation of a postmaster to his sworn assistant, acting under him, and between master and servant generally, has long been settled; and although the latter relation might sanction the admission of the evidence, we are unanimously of opinion that if it is intended to charge a postmaster for the negligence of his assistants, the pleading must be made up according to the case; and his liability then will only result from his own negligence in not properly superintending their duties in his office.”

In Wiggin vs. Hathaway, 6 Barb. N. Y., 632, the rule is thus stated:

“A postmaster is not liable for the malfeasance or embezzlement of his clerk or deputy. He is a public officer or agent of the Government, and as such the *respondeat superior* does not apply. He is only held to his diligence in the discharge of the duties of his office, and can only be made liable for losses occasioned by want of such diligence. He is not liable for the contents of a lost letter, unless he has been guilty of negligence and the loss is the consequence of that negligence.”

In Schroyer vs. Lynch, 8 Watt, Pa., 452, the same principle is affirmed in these words:

“A postmaster, though answerable for want of attention to the official conduct of his subordinates, is not responsible for their secret delinquencies; and an action does not lie against him for the purloining of a letter by a sworn assistant, appointed and retained by him in good faith.”

In Bolan vs. Williamson, 2 Bay, S. C., 551, the postmaster and his assistant were sued for the loss of a letter, through the fault of the assistant. The postmaster was held not liable, but the assistant was. The Court held that the assistant was liable in such case for his own default, but that the postmaster was not.

The case of Conwell vs. Voorhees, 13 Ohio, 542, states the principle generally thus: “Public agents, although in one sense treated as principals, are not responsible for the omissions, negligence or malfeasance of those employed under them if they have employed trustworthy persons of suitable skill and ability, and have not co-operated in the wrong.”

In the case of Schroyer vs. Lynch, 8 Watt, 452, above referred to, the duty of the postmaster is thus declared: “The postmaster ought to devote a proper portion of his time, either to the performance of the duties of his office personally or to the superintendence of his assistants while employed in performing them. His absence or want of attention may be such as to amount to culpable negligence, by its tendency to tempt spoliation upon his office; and whenever such is made to appear to be the result, he would doubtless be held answerable for loss.”

The foregoing cases quite fully define the liability of postmasters to private owners of matter which may be lost in the mails. It is required of them to exercise diligence and circumspection in selecting their subordinates, superintending them, and being observant as to their habits and trustworthiness. For his own protection the postmaster should select trustworthy and competent assistants, not only in view of the liability of himself and sureties to the Government, but also in view of his liability to private parties whose mail matter must be intrusted to the hands of his assistants. Negligence in selection, or the selection of clerks of bad habits, bad associations or incompetent qualifications may subject him to liability to patrons of the office for losses resulting from their carelessness or criminality. The Department and its revenues are not liable for registered matter lost or stolen from the mails. And postmasters are not liable to the Department for lost matter sent by private parties in the mails, whether registered or not.

The question of the liability of a postmaster to the sender or owner of valuable matter sent in the mails and stolen or lost through the negligence of a clerk or assistant to such postmaster, is one between the postmaster and the loser. If the latter choose to bring an action against the postmaster, he can do so, and the liability of the postmaster, as explained in the

(*Continued on page* 107.)

The United States Mail.

MONTHLY.

ONE YEAR, - - - - - - - - $2.00
SIX MONTHS, - - - - - - - - 1.00
SINGLE COPIES, . - - - - 20 CENTS.
TEN COPIES, - - - - ONE DOLLAR.

JOHN H. PATTERSON, EDITOR.

Remittances should be made to the order of THE UNITED STATES MAIL, *and should be by money order, postal note, or registered letter.*

THE UNITED STATES MAIL *is the only journal in this country, of legitimate circulation, depending entirely upon its merits for public patronage, devoted to the interests of the postal service.*

Entered at the Post-office at New York for transmission through the mails at second-class postal rates.

NEW YORK—CHICAGO, APRIL, 1886.

SENATE—497.

AND now MR. DAWES, of Massachusetts, feels that he, too, must champion the Press, and so he has introduced a Bill into the Senate "to regulate rates of postage on second-class mail matter at letter-carrier offices"; but which had better read thus: *a Bill to place the letter-carriers of the United States at the mercy of the great newspapers; to make the post-office an adjunct of newspaper offices, and to put millions of dollars into the pockets of publishers.* The Bill don't read that way, but that is exactly what its *effect* will be.

The Bill simply enables publishers at all letter-carrier offices to get their publications into the post-office for local distribution at *one cent per pound.*

Now what, we ask, in all candor, would be the effect of enacting such a law as that? Take Chicago for example. We have here 321 carriers, but if the measure of MR. DAWES should pass, one thousand would not be competent to handle the business that would be thrown upon the office. The theory that because second-class mail matter is transported from one end of the country to the other and is then delivered by carriers, that the Government can well afford to handle all newspapers and magazines for *home distribution* at *one cent per pound*, is fallacious. The tons of newspapers deposited in this office are destined to thousands of post-offices, and no one office is loaded down with any one or two publications. But if, however, the law was changed so as to admit of the delivery of all second-class matter at pound rates at letter-carrier offices, the Government would be simply furnishing carriers for the newspapers, which is a perversion of the uses of the post-office. There are weeklies and monthlies in all large cities that have a large local circulation, all the way from a few hundred to many thousand, and to pitch all of that upon the letter-carriers would load them down so that the delivery of letter mail would suffer.

We ask Congress to stop in its efforts to conciliate the Press. It has gone far enough! The rate on second-class matter was reduced from two to one cent per pound in order to gain their plaudits, and it cost the Government just exactly $1,200,000 to do it. Gentlemen, let the Press alone! Let the Press look out for itself! Let it pay its own bills! Let it stand upon its own bottom!! Take up the cause of the postmasters and see if some relief cannot be granted to them. Turn your sympathies into a new direction! Try and effect some measures that will increase the efficiency of the service.

But don't fail to throttle No. 497.

EXTENDING THE LETTER-CARRIER SYSTEM.

THERE seems to be no abatement of interest in the welfare of the dear, sweet people—and also the Press; and now comes the proposition to extend the free delivery to cities having a population of ten thousand.

This is all wrong! It is a useless waste of the public funds! and it is the extension of one of the most expensive features of our postal system. The cry that it is self-sustaining is a *farce*, and there is nothing in it. Taken as a whole, that may be so, but where would the free delivery be in point of revenue if it were not for New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago? Is it sound policy to take all the profits of the system in the large cities and expend them in extending it to places of ten and twenty thousand population, and in places, too, where it is not wanted and not needed? Could not that surplus revenue be expended in a more judicious manner?

Under the proposition to extend the free delivery to cities having a population of ten thousand, there are 169 cities that would come in under that provision, the expense of which in each city would be as fellows:

Four carriers, one at $850 and three at $600 each	$2,650 00
Forty letter-boxes, six at $2.50 and thirty-four at $1.75 each	74 50
Six satchels at $2.15 each	12 90
Furniture for use of carriers	100 00
Incidental expenses for the year	100 00
Total cost	2,937 40

In some cases, on account of distance to be traveled, one horse route may be necessary, which will cost $250 additional, but an average of the cost of establishment may be fixed at $3,000, or $507,000 for the entire list of the 169 cities.

Now let Congress remember that out of all the letter-carrier cities in the country only *seventeen* show an excess of receipts of local postage over the expense of the system, and that one hundred and sixty-one show a *deficiency*. Is not this one fact sufficient, or should it not be sufficient, to kill any measure proposing an extension of the system? Because the system pays for itself in seventeen large cities, that is no reason why it should be extended to one hundred and sixty-nine small ones; cities, really, only on paper, where the mud would stall an elephant in Winter and the dust ruin glass-eyes in the Summer.

The free delivery has already gone too far and should be curtailed. Thirty thousand population should be the lowest limit, and we opine that some of our congressional friends would be staggered if they could be furnished with the exact cost of the extension of the free delivery to those 169 cities; for they must not only calculate upon the $507,000 actually expended, but also the revenue the Government would lose in the loss of box-rents that would be sure to occur. It would be a safe estimate to place the box-rents of those offices at $2,500 per year, each, or $422,500 in all. This, with the actual outlay, would bring the expense of that spread up to about a cool million.

Congress and the people are wondering what in God's heaven has become of the revenues of the Post Office Department, why they are eight millions less than its expenses; but if they would only stop and consider the character of postal legislation we have been having, they would be enabled to see where the receipts have gone to.

IF the postmasters of the 7th Congressional district of Kansas want a *friend* in Congress, then let them see to it that MR. PETERS is renominated and re-elected.

REDUCING MONEY-ORDER FEES.

HOUSE Bill No. 4177, introduced by MR. A. J. WARNER, of Ohio, *ought* not to become a law. It has passed the House and is now awaiting action in the Senate. The purpose of the Bill is to reduce the fees on money-orders of $5 or less from 8 to 5 cents. Though it does not reduce the commissions of postmasters for the issuing of money-orders, yet it will be the means of using up the surplus fund of the money-order business, and will stand as a barrier against an increase of compensation to postmasters for their work. One of the reasons of the Memorial Committee for asking for a change in the law regulating their commissions, was because of the vast sum realized by the Government every year in the way of *clear profit* on the money-order business, and that it could well afford to pay the postmasters a decent compensation for their work; but now, if all that surplus fund is to disappear into the pockets of the *people*, why then the postmasters will get left, as they always do.

The Bill was drawn by Dr. C. F. McDONALD, the Chief of the Money-order System, and he is responsible for it. It grieves us much to oppose any measure that elegant gentleman may propose, but our duty is, first, to the postmasters who are the foundation of the system, and, in their name, we ask the Senate to kill it.

There is no need of any such reduction in the rates charged for money-orders! There is no call for it from any responsible source! In fact, the lowest fee charged should be ten cents, and from that up to twenty-five cents for $100.

Postmasters who are "up to snuff" will do well to write their Senators concerning this Bill and ask them to smother it. Just so sure as it becomes a law, there will be another effort made to reduce the slender compensation at present allowed. Do you see it?

A NEW METHOD TO COMPUTE BUSINESS.

ONE of the evils of the present time is the boycotting of post-offices. Some do so for political reasons, while others do so on account of personal spite; because they are in a position to deprive the postmaster of a part of his legitimate income, and take pleasure in exhibiting the smallness of their nature.

Then there are business men who mail almost all their letters on the cars, simply because it is more convenient, perhaps, than to carry them to the post-office, and so, unthoughtedly, they are doing a wrong to a friend and neighbor. There is much more of this sort of work done than is dreamed of, and the late convention sought to solve the problem as to how it could be prevented, by recommending that postage on all first-class matter mailed on postal-cars be charged double rates. Our friends in Congress, however, told us that it would be perfectly useless to attempt such a thing, and that we had better find some other solution of the difficulty. After casting around it was about concluded to recommend that the *business* of post-offices be computed upon the amount of mail matter *coming into them*, instead of that GOING OUT, and a Bill was drawn embodying that feature; but it was afterward feared that that might not be the best method, and so it has been held back until we can hear from postmasters.

LET every postmaster ask himself the question: What can I do to help along the cause? Have I done anything as yet? Have I given of my means the pittance asked for by the National Committee, and have I written my Congressman?

THE SITUATION.

When The United States Mail sounded the tocsin of war, summoning the third and fourth class postmasters to do battle, a movement of no small magnitude was inaugurated. A class of public servants, numbering over fifty thousand, unused to asserting their rights, were summoned to the front for organization. They had all their lives been working ardently to advance the interests of others and took but little thought of themselves. A convention was held, at which their grievances were expressed and a remedy was proposed. It was admitted by all that there was no hope outside of Congress, and that, if relief was obtained, it must be through that body. A National Executive Committee was designated, one member from each State, and to those gentlemen was delegated the duty of carrying out the will of the Convention. That committee met immediately after the adjournment of the Convention and organized for business and adopted a vigorous policy with regard to its mission. Two gentlemen were selected to prepare a memorial to Congress, setting forth the grievances of postmasters, and they were authorized to select a third, which was done. The Committee met in Chicago, March 15th, and, after a conference, decided to visit New York first and make another appeal to the Press of that city for support in our work, which was done, and one day was spent in calling upon the great dailies of the metropolis. Proceeding at once to Washington, we commenced preparation for a siege, proposing to remain there at least until our funds were exhausted. The first two days were spent in the preparation of our memorial and one more day in getting it into type, of which we had three thousand copies printed for special distribution. We were advised by our friends to use every exertion to get our memorial printed in the *Congressional Record*, for we were told that if we could do so, we would at once secure the attention of the country, and thus save much time in our work. Mr. Dockery, of Missouri, took charge of it and got it in, and as it was presented at an hour not devoted to such things, it required the *unanimous* consent of the House to do so, but it was given, which we at once took to be an omen of good. That done, we turned our attention to the construction of a Bill we desired presented, and by the aid of Messrs. Freeman and Money, old hands at the biz., we got what we wanted and placed it in the hands of Mr. Peters, of Kansas, in the House, and Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, in the Senate, both of them warm and steadfast friends of third and fourth class postmasters. It will probably be thirty or sixty days before these Bills come up for action, but when they do come, if the Committee is sustained in its work, *they will pass*, and the long-sought relief will have been given! *But money is needed!* and letter-writing is necessary.

We found many friends in Congress, some of whom we knew not of. Senator Voorhees said he would put his shoulder to the wheel when the time for action came, and we can rely upon Senators Conger and Wilson to help us when the speeches are to be made and when the votes are to be counted. And there are at least a dozen other Senators who gave us assurances of their hearty support, only we do not think it advisable to tell the world in advance just who have promised us their votes.

In the House our friends may be numbered by the score, and many of them are earnest and aggressive, and will stand by us to the bitter end. We need only a vigorous sustaining power behind us to carry our mission to a successful issue. If ten thousand postmasters would only take the trouble to write one letter each to their Congressman, *there is nothing that could defeat us.* But three men, however earnest, cannot accomplish everything, and we *plead* for support.

Mr. Dockery, of Missouri, a member of the Post-office Committee, informed us that but *one* postmaster in his district had written him upon this matter, and other Congressmen had never even received one letter. Now we say to the men whom we were sent to Washington to serve, if we fail, *it will be your fault*, for there is a most kindly feeling everywhere manifest in congressional circles in your behalf, and you can secure legislation, if you only manifest a desire to have it by doing something to get it.

Neither can you expect us to give up our time from our business and make this trip at our own expense. If we do the former, we ought not to be expected to do the latter.

AT THE DEPARTMENT.

The Memorial Committee was most kindly received by the officers of the Post-office Department, and every interest was manifested in the good results of our visit to Congress. A very pleasant and agreeable conversation was held with Postmaster-general Vilas and First Assistant Stevenson, and both of them expressed the hope that we would succeed in our endeavors to secure legislation in behalf of third and fourth class postmasters. We were invited to make ourselves at home around the Department, and to come and go at pleasure, and every possible assistance was offered.

How fortunate it is for the service that we have for a Postmaster-general one of the most accomplished lawyers at the American Bar, who has grappled with the problem of our postal service, and has been able to solve it. He has brushed aside many of the iniquities that have obscured its vision, and is daily bringing it into a higher state of efficiency. We judged that to be the case from the character of his official acts; but it is the testimony of all the old-time clerks and chiefs of Department bureaus, that he has exhibited a sort of intuitive understanding of postal affairs, and has been enabled to comprehend even complicated points at a glance. Neither is there any question but that he has the good of the service at heart, and is honestly and fearlessly performing his duty.

Nobody ever meets Mr. Stevenson and fails to like him. He always has time to meet his friends and the public, and he makes everybody feel at home in his presence. He was quite willing to be quoted as being most decidedly the friend of third and fourth class postmasters.

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

There should, by all means, be a meeting of the National Executive Committee at the City of Washington within the next forty days. If there ever was a time when conference was necessary, that time is the present; but it would be too much to ask the members of the committee to come together from such widely separated points *at their own expense.* In fact, we don't suppose they would do so; but we are of the opinion that if they were all in Washington for one week, our work would be practically completed. What we ought to have and what we *must have*, if we hope or expect to accomplish much in the future, *is cash*, not less than $3,000. If we had that sum now, we could call the committee together. Shall we have it?

Are you a subscriber to The United States Mail? If not, why not?

A FEW WORDS TO CONGRESSMEN.

Gentlemen:—You have all doubtless read the Memorial of the third and fourth class postmasters, and have also become aware of the fact that they seek redress at your hands, partially so, at least, through the Bill introduced by Mr. Peters, of Kansas. We ask every friend of the postmasters to make an exhibition of that friendship by crowding that Bill through to a passage. It is fair and just and equitable, and as these men have been your friends amid all the political tempests of the past, would it be more than they could reasonably expect that you should now turn round and stand by them? You have done nobly by the Press and the people, more, in fact, than they have asked or deserved, and a great deal that you have done for those classes has been detrimental to the interests of the postmasters. Make some slight amend for past thoughtlessness in regard to the interests of postmasters, by rallying around the Peters Bill and hurrying it through. Nineteen out of twenty of you are even *now* fully impressed of the justness of their claim, but you may question the political wisdom and sagacity of such an expenditure and for that reason hesitate somewhat; but, gentlemen, political life and salvation are indissolubly associated with the post-office, and, if you wish to conciliate the most powerful element in American politics, then vote for this Bill, and do it quick.

THE NEED OF FUNDS.

We republish this month our appeal to postmasters to send in contributions to enable the National Committee to carry on its work, and we do so for the last time. If the response to this call is not sufficient to meet our needs, we will lose all we have thus far gained, for, so far as the Committee now in Washington is concerned, it will retire from the field when the next supply of funds is exhausted, for it is *even now* spending private means to do the work intrusted to it. Out of 51,000 postmasters, who are interested in this movement, only some 365 have contributed to the present expense fund, and the total amount received to date is $418. Out of that we paid $100 for the appeal published in the *Official Postal Guide*, besides a multitude of other expenses, so that the Committee is now practically thrown upon its own resources, and unless relief comes soon, both Messrs. Risley and Johnson will be compelled to pay their own way home. Those gentlemen have gone some fifteen hundred miles from home upon a mission, the results of which will affect fifty thousand persons, and, we hope, for good, and yet they are compelled to spend their own money in order to remain in Washington a sufficient length of time to give the matter a fair test. This is, in fact, the only argument against the measure we seek to have enacted.

Now it remains with the postmasters themselves whether or not this work shall go on. We need $3,000 at once, and we could have it in a week, if even those of the third class would do their duty and respond to the appeal of the Committee. We ought, by all means, to have a meeting in Washington of at least twenty members of that Committee, and we could have, if their expenses could be paid. What will you do?

We cannot too strongly urge upon postmasters the absolute importance and necessity of writing their Congressman to support the postmasters' Bill. Gentlemen, you *must* do something to aid us in this work, if you hope to secure favorable results. Let us *all* try and do our duty.

WHAT WE ASK FOR.

The Bill introduced into Congress through the efforts of the Memorial Committee places *third*-class offices upon an equality with those of the first and second in all matters of rent, light, fuel, clerk-hire and incidental expenses.

It gives *fourth*-class offices the first $100, sixty per cent. of the second and fifty per cent. of the third.

It changes the fee for ISSUING money-orders from 3½ cents on each transaction to *one-half* the fee charged, whatever it may be, both on domestic and international orders, and *one-fourth* the fee for all orders PAID. One cent is asked for all postal notes ISSUED and three-quarters of one cent on all PAID.

We could not ask for all we wanted or for all we ought to have, and were fearful if we asked for too much, we would fail in all. It is not to be expected that we can please all in whose interest we are laboring, but we can only do the best we can and leave the rest to the future. We are confident this Bill will go through if postmasters will only do their duty toward it. The Committee cannot be expected to pay its own bills and remain in Washington until that result is accomplished. Every man of you has an obligation to perform, and there should be no hesitancy in taking it up. *Write your Congressman a letter by the first mail* and urge him to support it, and send your little dab to the Committee. If you don't, it will come home!

Postmasters should also use their influence to defeat the Bill to reduce the fee on money-orders of five dollars or less from eight to five cents. Remember that it has passed the House and is now in the Senate, and will pass that body, if no opposition is made.

Now is the time for action! Hesitation will cost you much! If you fail now, the jig is up.

MR. WILSON'S BILL.

Senate Bill No. 1,079, introduced by Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, is the worst-understood measure ever introduced into Congress. It simply provides that the postage on all fourth-class matter shall be two cents per pound, instead of one, and the result has been that he has raised an uproar from one end of the country to the other.

His simple desire was to protect the country merchant against his city competitor, who is every year encroaching more and more upon his domain, and robbing him of the trade to which he is entitled. The law at present in force enables the large city dealer to advertise his goods right under the very nose of the country merchant, and to ship half he sells by mail instead of by express. The Bill is a strike at monopoly, and for that reason, if for no other, we would support it. And what is more, it is in the interest of the postmaster.

WILL YOU HELP US?

We appeal to the liberality and generosity of every postmaster not now a subscriber to The United States Mail, of the third and fourth classes, to give us their support by a subscription to this paper. We have undertaken to publish a journal in your interest, and to do so successfully we must have subscribers. We beg that you will not undertake to secure it for nothing by writing to us every month for a "sample copy," thereby depriving us of our just dues. We have given of our time and private means to aid you in your endeavors to obtain redress from the inequalities of the law, and now we ask that you show your appreciation of that service by subscribing to our paper.

Will you do it?

NOTICE.

The undersigned, having purchased all the right and title of the Lakeside Press in The United States Mail, thereby becomes its sole owner and conductor, and assumes all liabilities of the same.

The publication office will hereafter be in New York city, Nos. 53, 55 and 57 Park Place. The editorial and business office, however, will be continued in Chicago, at No. 198 La Salle Street, Rooms 22 and 23.

All communications of every kind should be addressed to the undersigned.

JOHN H. PATTERSON,

Chicago, April 15th, 1886.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S REPLY.

On the last day of the Postmasters' Convention a congratulatory message to Postmaster-general Vilas was unanimously adopted and ordered to be sent to him by wire, which was done, but no reply was ever received.

It will be seen from the following note from Chief Clerk Nash that Mr. Vilas *did* send an acknowledgment:

Post Office Department,
Washington, March 30, 1886.

Dear Sir:

I inclose herewith a copy of the telegram which was sent on February 17th by the Postmaster-general, in reply to the message sent by the Postmasters' Convention the day previous, but which did not reach him until late in the evening, and then by telephone to his residence.

I regret very much that it did not reach Mr. Grubbs before the Convention adjourned.

Very respectfully yours,
T. E. NASH, Chief Clerk.

Mr. John H. Patterson, Chicago, Ill.

As the Convention adjourned on Tuesday evening, the 16th, and as Mr. Grubbs left the city the same evening, the message from the Postmaster-general was never delivered, and it was only by accident that we learned, a few days since, that one had been sent, which was as follows:

Washington, February 17, 1886.

L. H. Grubbs, Chicago, Ill.:

Gratefully sensible of their consideration, I pray you return to the assembled postmasters my hearty thanks. Their good wishes are promises of the fulfillment of the trust confided to them. It is my hope that your conference may be productive of much good.

WM. F. VILAS.

Postmaster-general Vilas is to be the orator in New York on Memorial Day. President Cleveland and General Sheridan will attend. We can look for something fine as an oratorical effort upon that occasion.

There have been not less than four Bills introduced into Congress thus far this session in the interest of Postal Clerks. That only shows what united effort can do. Some one of those Bills will be sure to pass.

The Memorial Committee was finally compelled to leave Washington for home *because their funds were exhausted*. They were even compelled to pay their own way home. This is not much removed from *disgrace!*

In writing your Congressman in relation to the Bill now before that body in the interest of Postmasters, refer to it as the Peters Bill No. 7,474.

LETTERS FROM HOME.

By Samuel S. Fontaine.

How dear to our hearts are the sweet little missives,
That bring fondest love from the dear ones at home;
More precious by far than the rarest of treasures,
We'll find on this earth in the lands we may roam.

They cheer us in sorrow and soften our anguish,
When dark, dreary clouds hide the sunshine of life;
They give us fresh courage and more strength to conquer
The giant-like troubles we meet in the strife.

The poor dying soldier, on dark field of battle,
Breathes fondly a prayer with his last gasping breath;
For dear ones at home who have written the letter
That gave him the courage to meet such a death.

The convict, alone in the cell of his prison,
Repents of his crime over a letter from home;
The hardy old tar and the light-hearted middy,
Both read them with tears on the sea's briny foam.

The student, while poring o'er quaint ancient volumes,
Or scanning the lives of the poets of old,
Reads time and again o'er these well-fingered letters,
He values far more than the miser his gold.

How many a hard heart has been softened by letters
That mothers have written their far-away boys,
And brought to the straight path of virtue and honor,
When almost forgotten were life's earthly joys.

Let's cherish with love their advice and good counsels,
They'll guide us where'er on this earth we may roam;
And breathe, from the depths of the heart's warm devotion,
"God bless the dear ones who write letters from home!"

Louisville, Ky.

SPECIAL INFORMATION WANTED.

We would like postmasters at money-order offices to furnish us with an accurate statement of the entire number of *words* and *figures* they are compelled to write every month in the conduct of their money-order business and their compensation therefor. Put it in good shape so it may be easily understood.

The effort of three or four men to run the late Convention was a most dismal failure.

It is all folly to undertake to secure any Congressional legislation unless a vigorous effort is made to secure it. To permit a handful of men to furnish all the money and to do all the work, is neither fair nor just.

And now Senator Blair has introduced a Bill, making the limit of a letter-carrier's daily service eight hours per day. That's all poppycock, but it shows what men can do, when they determine upon doing it. Perhaps postmasters might take a hint from this.

Postmaster Veazey, of Baltimore, gave notice, on April 1st, to twenty-five letter-carriers that their services would not be needed after the 15th, and so eight of them quit at once. The new appointees passed a civil service examination. Three of them are Republicans.

Mr. John Warner, P. M., at Peoria, Ills., has resigned. He did so because a fight was being made against his confirmation by the Senate, and he preferred to resign rather than run the risk of a rejection. He was one of the best postmasters in the service, and we are sorry at his departure.

Senator Wilson's Bill to double the rate on fourth-class matter has been defeated. It only proves what we say elsewhere, that postage can never be raised after it is once decreased, no matter how ruinous it may be to the revenues of the Department. If there was less *tampering* with postage-rates by Congress, the country would be better off.

LOTTERIES AND THE POST-OFFICE.

Opinion of Attorney-general Garland.

Washington, D. C., April 1, 1886.

The Post-office Department has recently given a careful consideration to the statutes governing this Department, relating to the use of the mails, in furtherance of the lottery schemes, which are largely conducted by advertising and by sending out vast numbers of circulars, letters and other matter under seal in the mails. In order to have a careful and authoritative definition of the limits of his authority, and the power of the Department to discourage these lottery schemes, the Postmaster-general has lately submitted to Attorney-general Garland a request for his opinion on a number of points concerning which questions have poured into the Department from postmasters and others, as to the power of the Department in dealing with lottery matter. The Attorney-general has just transmitted an opinion covering the whole subject. He advises:

1. That as the law prohibits the carrying in the mail of any letter or circular concerning lotteries, and makes it penal to send anything in violation of said prohibition, it follows that letters and circulars known, and not merely supposed or suspected, to be concerning lotteries, are non-mailable.

2. It is the duty of Postmasters to withdraw from the mails such letters as they know to be concerning lotteries, and such unsealed circulars as concern lotteries, as prohibited matter; but they cannot withdraw letters from the mails or refuse to send them merely because they suspect the letters to concern lotteries.

3. The statutes do not warrant postmasters in withdrawing letters from the mails because they are addressed to a lottery company or a person described in the address as the agent of a lottery company or similar scheme. It does not follow that a letter addressed to a lottery company, or agent as such, concerns a lottery.

4. Newspapers and periodicals which are otherwise entitled to pass in the mails at second-class rates are not rendered non-mailable when they publish, in their regular columns, advertisements of lotteries or similar schemes for distribution of money or property by lot or chance, or drawing of any kind.

5. Postmasters cannot lawfully refuse to receive and forward registered packages addressed to lottery companies or to persons described as agents, officers or managers of lotteries or other similar enterprises offering prizes. The law does not go so far. It only authorizes the return of registered matter addressed to parties found and declared by the Postmaster-general, upon satisfactory evidence, to be engaged in conducting a "fraudulent" lottery. To reject such matter as non-mailable would be to violate the statute, which must be interpreted by its own words, and, furthermore, to assume an identity between a lottery and a fraudulent lottery, in the face of the seeming distinction between the two in the statute.

6. Postmasters cannot lawfully refuse to sell money-orders payable to lottery companies or their known agents or officers, as the law goes no further than to authorize the Postmaster-general to order the refusal of payment of a money-order payable to a person who has been found to be engaged in a fraudulent lottery.

7. The Postmaster-general has no legal authority, upon being satisfied that a concern or company is conducting a lottery, gift enterprise or scheme for the distribution of property by lot or chance, to forbid postmasters generally from registering packages or selling money-orders made payable to the known agents or officers of such companies or to the companies.

8. The Attorney-general is also of opinion that the Postmaster-general has no power to instruct postmasters to return registered letters or forbid them to pay money-orders because addressed or made payable to an individual conducting a lottery, gift enterprise or scheme for the distribution of money or property by lot, chance or drawing of any kind, until he has found, upon evidence satisfactory to him, that such scheme is a means of obtaining money through the mails by falsehood and false pretenses. He holds that Congress, by this legislation, intended to draw a distinction between lotteries, etc., fairly conducted and those dishonestly conducted, and that a lottery, although illegal by the law of the State where it is carried on, is not for that reason alone a fraudulent lottery; and before mail facilities can be denied to persons carrying on lotteries it must be shown that their business involves a use of those facilities for obtaining money fraudulently.

This decision leaves so little power in the Post-office Department, as to render the need of legislation on the subject very apparent.

EDWIN E. BRYANT,
Assistant Attorney-general.

LEGAL OPINIONS.

(*Continued from page* 103.)

above authorities, will be established only by proving that he was negligent or in fault in keeping such clerk or assistant in his employment, or in superintending the performance of the duties of the office. If the postmaster chooses to litigate in order to determine his liability or non-liability, in such a case, by the verdict of a jury, he has the right to do so. It is not the province of the Department to compel him to make restitution.

It is, however, the proper duty of the Department to scrutinize such cases very closely. In judging of his fitness for the position to which he is appointed, the Department is concerned to know whether he exercises due care, prudence and watchfulness in selecting the clerks and assistants whom he employs and in superintending their performance of duty. If he knows or is chargeable with notice that his clerks or assistants are addicted to evil habits, or associate with bad people, are intemperate, dissipated, or are frequenters of resorts of dissipation, and spending money freely, his retaining such assistants in employment is a fact which the Department or Executive is concerned to know in determining whether the postmaster is a proper person to have charge of so responsible an office.

In the case at ——, the postmaster denies his liability and denies knowledge of the facts alleged as to the vicious and dissipated practices which have tended to lead his assistant into a course of crime. The controversy must be determined, not by the Department, but between the losers and the postmaster, if they choose to litigate the matter.

Very respectfully,
EDWIN E. BRYANT,
Assistant Attorney-general,
Post-office Department.

POSTAL LEGISLATION.

By Mr. Seney, January 6th, H. R. (No. 1,750). To amend Section 3,865 of the Revised Statutes of the United States respecting letter-carriers.

By Mr. Collins, January 5th, H. R. (No. 1,124). To regulate rates of postage on second class mail matter at letter-carrier offices.

By Mr. Peters, December 21st, 1885, H. R. (No. 772). To pay dependent relatives of persons killed by accident engaged in the Railway Mail Service, and to compensate for injuries received.

By Mr. Rogers, December 21st, 1885, H. R. (No. 80). To provide for the deposit in the Treasury of the receipts of the money-order system, and for the payment of its expenses out of appropriations.

By Mr. Bingham, January 6th, H. R. (No. 2,029). Extending the letter-carrier and free-delivery service to places containing a population of not less than ten thousand within the corporate limits, and so forth.

By Mr. Glass, January 6th, H. R. (No. 2,296). To prohibit the mailing of newspapers and other publications containing lottery advertisements, and prescribing a penalty for the violation of the same.

By Mr. John A. Anderson, January 7th, H. R. (3,084). To reduce the rates of postage on letters commonly known as drop or local letters to one cent.

By Mr. Grout, January 11th, H. R. (No. 3,719). To enable the *people* to name their postmasters.

By Mr. Storm, January 11th, H. R. (No. 3,621). Declaring the true intent and meaning of the Act of March 3d, 1883, relative to the adjustment of salaries of certain postmasters.

By Mr. Millard, January 11th, H. R. (No. 3,561). Authorizing the Postmaster-general to pay two years' salary to the widow or guardian of the minor children of any postal clerk killed while on duty by railroad accident.

By Mr. Barry, January 11th, H. R. (No. 3,512). To authorize the readjustment of the compensation of postmasters at certain fourth-class offices.

By Mr. Blount, January 21st, H. R. (No. 4,416). To provide a fund for railway postal clerks, and for the care and distribution thereof.

By Mr. Blount, January 21st, H. R. (No. 4,415). To make the allowances for clerk-hire at first and second class post-offices cover the cost of clerical labor in the money-order business, and for other purposes.

By Mr. A. J. Warner, January 18th, H. R. (No. 4,177). To reduce the fee on domestic money-orders of five dollars or less from eight to five cents.

By Mr. Blount, January 21st, H. R. (No. 4,417). To facilitate the transmission and delivery of letters addressed in care of hotels.

By Mr. Bingham, January 26th, H. R. (No. 4,677). To authorize the payment of postal notes at any money-order office.

By Mr. Blount, January 21st, H. R. (No. 4,420). To authorize the publication of a new edition of the Postal Laws and Regulations. (*Thank God!*)

By Mr. Blount, January 21st, H. R. (No. 4,419). To authorize the appointment of an additional Assistant Postmaster-general.

By Mr. Dougherty, February 1st, H. R. (No. 4,860). To regulate the sub-letting of contracts for carrying the United States mails.

By Mr. Hill, January 6th, H. R. (No. 1,894). To provide for the construction of post-offices in the United States, and to increase the efficiency of the postal service.

By Mr. Dawes, December 14th, Senate (No. 497). Regulating rates of postage on second-class matter at letter-carrier offices. (*This is another concession to the Press in the large cities. The Bill should be killed.* —Editor United States Mail.)

By Mr. Wilson, February 25th, Senate (No. 1,636). To reduce the rate of postage on seeds, scions, bulbs and plants.

By Mr. Wilson, January 14th, Senate (No. 1,079). To make the rate of postage on all fourth-class matter uniform at two cents per pound. (*This Bill ought to pass.*— Editor United States Mail.)

By Mr. Peters, March 5th, H. R., (No. 7,474). To regulate the compensation of postmasters of the third and fourth classes, and to change the commission on money-orders and for other purposes. (This is the Bill constructed by order of the Memorial Committee.)

B. F. Jacobs, the worthy postmaster at Clearfield, Ia., celebrated his golden wedding last month and had a royal feast.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

N. J. Price, P. M., Neosho, Mo., sends $2 for the Committee, and says: "Keep this thing moving. I am with you."

H. Mayo, P. M., Morgan City, La., says: "Let the good work proceed. May the success of Achilles rest upon our arms. I inclose you $1."

Miss Kate Hopkins, P. M., Livingston, Ala., says: "It affords me pleasure to send my mite toward effecting the great work you have inaugurated. I am a subscriber to your paper."

A. B. Baker, P. M., Aurora, Dak., says: "Inclosed please find $2, to assist in the good cause. I am of the fourth class, but I feel that I can afford this much. I will also make an appeal to all the P. M.'s in my district."

Geo. Harding, P. M., Cleveland, N. Y., says: "As I should feel *mean* to receive the benefits of a movement that others *worked* for and *paid* for, I herewith gladly send you $1 to help in meeting the expenses of the Committee."

W. H. Hughes, P. M., Richland, S. C., says: "It was not my pleasure to attend the Convention, but I think the movement a correct one and do not hesitate to respond to the call for $1. Hope it may be bread cast upon the waters."

N. B. Curtis, P. M., Centre Road Sta., Pa., says: "Inclosed I hand you $1 to aid in sending the Committee to Washington. It is only just and right that we should all chip in, and I for one am glad to be able to do a little, and I think every third and fourth class P. M. should feel interested."

Stephen Forsdick, P. M., Chester, Neb., says: "Hope you may be successful, especially in finding a remedy for the mailing of letters on trains and granting of the first $100 to fourth-class P. M.'s. I am sorry to see that I was the only contributor from Hazen County to your convention fund. I inclose you $1 now."

S. Mitchell, P. M., Visalia, Cal., says: "I am the newly appointed postmaster for Visalia. I have been the chief deputy since July, 1883. I have been a regular subscriber to your valuable paper ever since it was first started, and I now inclose $2 to renew my subscription, as I do not consider a post-office fully equipped without it." (*Along with the above came the photograph of Mr. Mitchell, a fine-looking young fellow of twenty-six.*)

R. A. Wright, P. M., Louisburgh, Kan., says: "While the Convention asked for some things beneficial to the fourth class, it also asked for some things detrimental. While I believe it did not pass, yet some urged that the United States should furnish post-office boxes. I and, it seems to me, every other P. M., would prefer to expend, say $400 in furniture and fixtures and get interest in box-rent to the amount of $200 per annum—pretty good interest, methinks. Inclosed I hand you $1."

H. M. Black, P. M., Del Rio, Texas, says: "Inclosed I hand you postal note for $2. My office is a *fourth*-class one, but in consideration of the movement being a *first*-class one, I am more than willing to send you more than you ask of me. I have no fears as to good results arising from our efforts, when they are properly brought to bear upon those who make our laws. They are men of liberal views, and, I believe, generally just and fair-minded regardless of politics. I will be found ready to do my part."

C. A. Stout, P. M., McLean, N. Y., says: "Have just received my Mail for March, and have only had time to glance through its columns. I noticed with pain the insignificance of the contributions made by postmasters to carry on the Convention, and I was surprised, on examining your published list, to find that there was but *one* other contribution from this county besides myself, especially so when there are others that had promised me to send in their mite. I cannot understand this apathy in the cause, especially upon the part of newly appointed postmasters, for they ought to understand that they will reap more benefit than any one else. I inclose you my *third* contribution, with best wishes for the United States Mail and its enterprising editor."

Miss Mina Aycock, P. M., McCurdy, Miss., says: "We are in hopes that you will succeed in your efforts to help us in our condition. I inclose you $1."

Miss Bettie Stacey, P. M., Willcockson, Ark., says: "I inclose you $1, with my best wishes. If there is a class of people in the world who need help, it is us poor fourth-class postmasters."

Mr. Wm. Seeger, P. M., Morley, Ia., writes us an interesting letter and closes it thus: "I think the brother-postmasters who are laying back to eat the persimmons after the Committee goes to Washington to pull them down for them and yet render no aid to the undertaking, do not exhibit much generosity of feeling."

F. S. Decker, P. M., Cairo, N. Y., says: "Having been recently appointed P. M. at this place, I first of all require your valuable paper, The U. S. Mail, a copy of which I recently received. I am with you in the great work you have set on foot, and inclose you herewith $2 for the paper and $1 for the cause."

H. L. Sewell, P. M., La Fayette, Texas, says: "I have just examined your last issue and find everything in it full of interest. Had I got the call in time, I would have attended the Convention, but I am glad to see the names of Texas men appearing on the list of committees. I receive from $20 to $30 per quarter, hence, you see, to allow the postmasters of the fourth class all they cancel up to $100, would be of no advantage to them. I think P. M.'s of this class should be paid a salary of about $2 per day."

L. A. Simmons, P. M., Cortland, Neb., says: "I have appointed a P. M. in each county in the State, whose duty it will be to solicit funds for the Committee from all other postmasters, and I expect Nebraska will come to the front with at least *one thousand dollars*. I inclose you $1, as my assessment, but in addition to that I have expended $10 or $15 for printing and postage. I hope the Committeemen from other States will spare no efforts to raise the necessary funds." (*We are sorry to inform our friend that Nebraska has not come to the front, but lags in the rear, for we have not had* $20 *in all from the State.*—Treasurer.)

A. Bell, P. M., Coalville, Kan., says: "Inclosed please find $1 for your Committee. Two things look to me as needing redress. One is mailing letters on trains and the other is the large amount of work we are compelled to perform in the distribution of newspapers, for which we receive no compensation. In the smaller fourth-class offices we have to receive and distribute a great many more papers than we do letters, and, what is more, they occasion little or no correspondence, and are, therefore, a dead loss to us. There is no equity in compelling us to handle weekly papers gratuitously, and every publisher should pay his proper proportion of postage, no matter who he is."

F. M. Butts, P. M., Wesley, Ia., says: "I feel an interest in the success of the movement you have inaugurated, and inclose you a postal note of $1.40. Mine is a fourth-class office, but I am willing to do even more if necessary, but I think that if all P. M.'s would do as much, we will not lack for funds. They should all feel the same interest in this great work, for if we are benefited, we will all share alike. We are the only employés of the Government who have to work from ten to sixteen hours per day; in fact, I think that the most of them do not devote over eight hours of time to their public duties. I hope the Committee will work for the *first* $100 in canceled stamps, and also see that we obtain relief in the matter of mailing letters on trains. I think the fee for issuing the large money-orders should be reduced to 25 cents, while our compensation should be raised to 5 cents on each transaction."

J. B. Pondron, P. M., Pilot Point, Tex., says: "I have just received my Mail for March, and in reply to your call for help, inclose you a postal for $1. I have also read the proceedings of our Convention, which I found in no other paper, and I indorse all that was asked for with the exception of the demands regarding the money-order business. I think, as Mr. Johnson, of Kansas, said, 'we are asking a little too much.' If we were allowed one-half the fee on all orders issued, we could afford to pay all orders for nothing. Allow me to thank you for the sentiment expressed in your paper regarding the action of some publishers. Best assured that I will not solicit subscriptions for any of those that are hostile toward a just cause."

E. W. Stokes, P. M., Smyrna, N. Y., says: "I am troubled a little this quarter about box-rents. The boxes have heretofore been rented here at five cents per quarter, but I raised it to ten, and the result is that I have some sixty or seventy kickers on hand. We not unfrequently find people who think we ought to furnish boxes, sort, handle and deliver mail for nothing. Post-office boxes are designed (1) for the accommodation of the public; (2) for the convenience of postmasters; (3) for revenue purposes. The Department expects the patrons of post-offices to pay box-rent, not merely for the use of the boxes, but to pay something for handling their mail." (*Five cents per quarter is entirely too insignificant a sum to charge for the rent of a box for twelve weeks, and if we ran a small post-office, we would charge either three or five times that amount. We pay* $3 *per quarter for a small box at the Chicago office.*—Ed. U. S. Mail.)

Mrs. Lucy Ratcliffe, P. M., Brookville, Ky., says: "I received your paper yesterday, asking every fourth-class postmaster to send in $1, and I respond at once. I rejoice that so much good has already been accomplished. My heart is in this movement. I have responded to every call, and hope to be able to continue until we secure what we are after. I do not feel like sitting idle while others, perhaps no better able than myself, are hard at work in our behalf. I do not see how those who expect to reap the benefits of your labor are willing to sit idly by and permit a handful of generous souls to furnish all the needful. I feel ashamed that my own State of Kentucky did so little toward meeting the expenses of the Convention, and I am not only *ashamed*, but *surprised;* for I urged P. M.'s to contribute whose compensation is much larger than my own, but I see from your published list that they did not do so. You have my prayers for your success, and I trust that Congress will give you a patient and earnest hearing."

H. A. Jordan, P. M., Manchester, Va., says: "The sample copy of the United States Mail, as per order, is before me, and I am glad to state that I am much pleased with it. Inclosed I hand you postal note for $2, one of which is for the Committee and the other for your paper. I regret very much that the Old Dominion was not represented at the Convention, but feel confident that the rest of the P. M.'s of the State, along with myself, heartily sanction what it did, and sincerely trust that much good will result from its deliberations. Am satisfied that the Congressman from this district, Hon. John D. Wise, will do all he can for us, as I wrote him some time since, acquainting him of our grievances. The population of my city is between seven and eight thousand, and yet it is only of the fourth grade. That may seem unreasonable, but it is a fact. We are located on the opposite side of the river from Richmond, and are connected by two bridges. Our mail is supplied from the Richmond office, and a great many of our citizens are employed in that city. There are two railroads passing through, and, consequently, a large amount of mail-matter is either mailed in Richmond or on the cars on this side, which explains why we are only a fourth-class office. I am working up the business, however, and I hope by January 1st to be in a higher grade. I thank you sincerely for your interest in our behalf and wish for the prosperity of you and your paper."

F. D. Denton, P. M., Batesville, Ark., says his first official act after he took charge of his post-office last October, was to subscribe for The United States Mail.

Miss Mary Henry, P. M., Waverly, Mo., says: "I have to-day (March 27th) received $5.96 commission on my money-order business for the second quarter of last year."

Mr. F. D. Denton; P. M., Batesville, Ark., says he transacts a money-order business of an average of $1,000 a week, for which his compensation runs from $2 to $2.50, a munificent sum.

S. G. Smith, P. M., Patesville, Ky., says: "I concur in the sentiment you express, that you propose to reach for every newspaper that opposes the movement of the postmasters in this contest."

Geo. A. Cummings, P. M., Garden City, Mo., says: "I take great pleasure in inclosing you the amount asked for by the Committee, feeling confident that it will result in good to all concerned."

C. A. Simpkins, P. M., Naples, Ill., says: "It seems strange that men, interested as postmasters are in this matter, should be so slow to respond with their *mites* to help the Committee in its work."

E. M. Norton, P. M., Andes, N. Y., says: "Your welcome paper is just at hand, and I at once proceed to send you my small contribution. I hope every man who is interested in the success of your mission will feel that it is a question of *honor* to bear a share of the necessary expense."

N. Bruette, P. M., Jefferson, Wis., says: "I see that the National Executive Committee has made a call for contributions to aid in sending a committee to Washington. This is right and just, and I hope the response will be prompt, so that the Committee may not be worried and hampered on account of want of necessary funds. Inclosed find postal note for $2."

Mr. G. L. Phillips, P. M., Bethany, Mo. says: "Inclosed find money-order for $2. I did not know this was needed until I received The United States Mail yesterday, or I would most certainly have sent before. I think the P. M. who will not aid in this matter is made of poor stuff. I sent my petition to Hon. A. M. Dockery, M. C., from this district, who, I am sure, is with us in this work."

Mr. J. Marriott, P. M., North Bloomfield, Col., says: "I trust the action taken by the convention may do us poor devils some good, but from the reading of the proceedings in your valuable paper, the U.S. Mail, I am led to believe that whatever good may accrue to us, depends altogether upon the action of the National Executive Committee, and I trust they will not lean too much toward postmasters of the third class."

Wm. Thompson, P. M., Blue Rapids, Kan., says: "I am a little the senior of the P. M. who writes from Hickory, Ill., for I voted for Jackson, in November, 1828, for President, and have seen the changes of 77 years. Have witnessed all the changes in postage on letters from 25 cents down to 2 cents. I was a P. M. in Wisconsin in 1855-56-57, and then in Kansas, where I now reside, until the administration changed in 1860-61. A post-office in those days was worth something to postmasters, as postage had not been reduced so low and there was no money-order system. In consequence of having the misfortune to lose my house by fire and being a cripple in one arm, the good people of both parties petitioned for me for P. M. at Blue Rapids, and I was appointed last October. I made an expenditure of $400 for new boxes and fixtures, and pay $8½ per month rent, and am forced to hire an assistant and a part of the time two of them, in order to keep up with the business of the office; for the money-order business, no matter how small it is, must be entered in three books before it is finally disposed of; then a daily remittance must be made, and once a week a report must be made to Washington, and if you make a little mistake, the authorities come at you red-eyed."

John F. Bondurant, P. M., Brierfield, Ala., says: "I have just read in your paper an account of the Convention. I am in full sympathy with those who are taking an active part in this matter and herewith send you $1."

L. D. Palmer, P. M., Yankton, Dak., says: "Excuse my tardiness in sending my remittance. It was merely an oversight, as I am ready and willing to bear my share of the burden, for our cause is just. Let's *push* the good work!"

H. C. Metcalf, P. M., Walpole, Mass., says: "I took possession of this office February 1st, and am, therefore, very new at the business, but I think postmasters should have more compensation. My office is only of the fourth class, but I send you $2."

M. C. Leach, P. M., New London, Ia., says: "Have just taken time to read the Mail for March, and I find the appeal to third and fourth class postmasters, and I hasten to respond. I am sorry I am not able to make it $10 instead of $1. May the good cause go on."

J. W. Morgan, a clerk in the post-office at Starke, Fla., suggests that certain offices in every State be designated as depositories of Post-office Supplies, so as to enable the smaller offices to get their requisitions filled more quickly and thus prevent much inconvenience. It is certainly worthy of consideration.

G. S. Casteller, P. M., Waterford Mills, Ind., says: "I would have remitted my dollar sooner, but did not know of the call until to-day. I hope this amount, though small, will be received with the same generous feeling and brotherly love with which it is sent, and hope that all P. M.'s may respond in like manner."

J. W. Satcher, P. M., Union Springs, Ala., says: "It frets me to think of the indifference of some men when so much is involved. The P. M.'s at Ozark, Salem and Midway said they would contribute, if you would write them, stating the necessities of the case. I am aware that your time is needed at other work, but you can do more with them than I can. The 50 cents credited to J. W. Batcher, Union Springs, Ala., should have been placed to the credit of M. E. Pruitt, Midway, Ala."

Geo. F. Botts, P. M., Rives, Tenn., says: "In compliance with the appeal of the National Executive Committee, I beg to inclose you $1, which I regard as a very reasonable and just demand, one which ought to be met cheerfully by every postmaster. It is certainly a move of the greatest importance to every one of us, and we each and all ought to take an *individual* interest in the contest and hold up your hands, as if we were in earnest, or *for ever hereafter hold our peace*, and say no more about the hardships imposed upon us or the slight compensation granted. *Brethren!* we should not sit back and fold our hands awaiting some other brother to come forward and lift the burden from our shoulders."

John V. R. Hinkley, P. M., Romulus, N. Y., says: "Inclosed please find $1 to assist in the good work, and I beg leave to call the attention of your Committee to the law as it now stands, which requires mail-carriers to take letters from citizens and put them on the trains, thereby lessening the income of the postmaster. The ex-P. M. at this place gave up his office very reluctantly, and in order to cripple me, entered into a contract with the railroad company to carry the mail between the office and the trains, which gives him an opportunity to collect letters from his friends and mail them on the cars. He not only gathers up the mail himself, but a large amount is brought to his place of business. Our minister, who is a strong partisan and has a large correspondence, compels me to handle and distribute the mail he receives, but takes special care to send all his outgoing mail direct to the cars, and thus aids in curtailing my honest and legitimate income. Now, as our pay is very small, anyhow, ought not the law to step in and set this wrong right? Something should be done at once! The evil is wide-spread and growing."

D. Marshall, P. M., Tuscumbia, Mo., says: "As nothing can be accomplished without funds toward carrying out the work of the Convention, I am pleased to inclose you $1. Am greatly pleased with your paper."

Wm. Lind, P. M., Hillsboro, Wis., says: "I wished very much to attend the Convention, but it was impossible for me to do so. I am glad it was held, and feel confident that we will all be benefited by it. I trust the Committee will meet with success in Washington. I inclose you $1."

Alfred Davison, P. M., Shepherd, Tex., says: "I have received my U. S. Mail, with proceedings of the Convention and sincerely trust your efforts will be successful. My idea is that letters mailed on a train, where there is a post-office nearer than one mile, should be charged at the rate of 5 cents per ounce. I send you $1."

Bart. Holmes, P. M., Milvin, Ills., writes: "I inclose you $1 to help you out in the expenses of your Committee. They are mailing so many letters on the trains now that it seriously affects the revenues of this office. I wish something could be done to put a stop to it. I have confidence in your efforts and hope they will accomplish much."

L. D. Thurston, P. M., Leicester, Mass., says: "I received The U. S. Mail for March, and began immediately to look it over to see what was done at the Convention. I have felt greatly interested in this movement and am anxious as to the result. I feel that it is absolutely necessary for every postmaster in the country to join hands and push this work with vigor, for nothing short of it will move the powers that be that control legislation. I am only a fourth class P. M., but I inclose you $2."

Col. E. P. Linzee, P. M., Pierce City, Mo,. sends us an appeal to the postmasters of his State to send in their contributions to the expense fund of the Committee. It is very elegantly worded and has the true ring in it, but we do not publish it, for the reason that if his brethren would not respond to the appeal of the National Committee, they would not to him, personally. The Colonel is the member of the National Committee from that State and is one of the best men in it, and he is earnestly interested in the cause of third and fourth class postmasters.

S. B. Owen, P. M., Bellaire, Mich., says: "The proceeds of this office are so small that I have to figure very close to make both ends meet, so that I can scarcely spare the money, yet I do not see how I can get along without your paper. The office pays but $450 a year. I distribute mail for *nine* other offices. I read in the P. L. & R. that the Postmaster-general may make a reasonable allowance for clerk-hire at such offices, and although I have asked for only $100 for such service, yet I have heard nothing from it. If anything can be done by fair means to aid us poor third and fourth class fellows, for Heaven's sake do it."

A. E. Conrow, P. M., Buckingham, Ill., says: "Inclosed find $1 toward Memorial Committee fund. Having visited Washington, I have some idea of the demand upon one's pocketbook. In looking over the report of the proceedings of the Convention, I notice what was done in regard to clerk-hire. I see little prospect of relief in my case. My office is of the fourth class, the total receipts for the last quarter being $147.99. Diverging from our village is a railroad to the coal mines, on which are two mining villages with one post-office. All the mail to and from the mines passes through my office, adding very materially to my duties, and without any compensation. I have made application to the Department repeatedly during the past three years for some return for this extra work, but always with the same result, viz., "Owing to the limited appropriation for clerk-hire in post-offices, we are not warranted in making an allowance for the separation of mails at your office." It seems like an injustice to require me to furnish a building, lights, fuel, and clerk-hire, and to perform so much gratuitous labor."

Albert Tower, P. M., Galesville, Wis., says: "I am pleased to send you the inclosed one dollar. I would like to see every P. M. help in this movement. How would it do to appoint some one man in every Congressional district to oversee the matter of collections, and then have him appoint another man to attend to the collections for each county?"

A. G. Smith, P. M., Buffalo, Tex., says: "I inclose you a postal note for $1.00. I wish I was able to send you more, *but I am a poor and helpless old man of seventy*, trying to make an honest living. My duties and responsibilities are almost equal to those of a second-class office, and yet I am graded as a fourth. It is my prayer that you may succeed."

Geo. S. Eddy, P. M., Willoughby, Ohio, says: "It is surprising to me that more P. M.'s did not chip in in the small amount asked for to meet the expenses of the Convention. They will all be glad enough to reap any benefit that may arise from the action of the Convention. If all had done their duty in this matter the financial condition of the Association would have been easy. I inclose you $2."

John W. Lentz, P. M., Dongola, Ill., says: "Inclosed I hand you $1 to aid in your expenses, and hope every postmaster in the United States will feel an interest in the contest. It is certainly a move in the right direction, and I feel assured it will prove a success. I am well pleased with the resolutions passed by the Convention. I am ready to do all I can to aid in carrying forward the good work. Think your paper deserves the patronage of every P. M."

Mr. A. C. Pickard, P. M., Clayton, Ark., writes that his pay as postmaster is only about $5 per month, and yet its duties require about one-half of his time. He has tried repeatedly to induce others to take the office off his hands, but so far without result, as they can easily see the amount of labor he is compelled to perform. He says: "The office is impoverishing myself and family. The Department does not want to discontinue the office, as it is the terminus of an important route. I am compelled to hire an assistant to aid me in separating the mail, and yet they won't allow me a cent for it."

Carl Wencker, P. M., Augusta, Mo., says: "Yesterday **The United States Mail** put in an appearance, and I wish to promptly respond to the call of the National Committee. It grieves me to see that so few third and fourth class postmasters made contributions to your first fund. Our county has 23 offices, and only three of them responded. I have a very small fourth-class office, and am a stanch Republican, and may be buried at any day, but I want this movement to go forward, and I am Christian enough to want to see my successors get the benefit of it, even if I do not. It will be a source of satisfaction to me to know that I aided in it."

E. V. Robinson, P. M., East Port, N. Y., says: "I have watched the papers daily for some time, and this day note with pleasure the arrival of your Committee in Washington. I do hope that you will be able to accomplish something for us poor fourth-class fellows, especially if they are all in the same fix I am in, defending their offices against malicious and shameless mobs. I never dreamed of so much feeling in the removal of one postmaster and the substitution of another. My place of business is five minutes' walk from where the post-office was formerly located, and every day a crowd leaves that place (incited, no doubt, by the ex-P. M.), threatening all manner of abuse and violence against my person and openly insulting and abusing me. The ex-assistant P. M. is doing all in his power to keep the legitimate business of the post-office away from me, and he publicly invites all mail-matter to be brought to him and he will see that it is delivered on board the postal car, and he has done that daily ever since I took the office. Our Congressman is the Hon. **Perry Belmont**, and if you can make him acquainted with this state of this phase, do so."

E. H. Looney, P. M., Bentonville, Ark., says: "It is due to your exertions, largely, that we had a Convention at all, and that the matter has at last got so prominently before the country. My office is of the fourth class, yet it is so near the third that I feel, *seriously*, the loss caused from box-rents and an outfit which cost me $600; and my office, being at a county seat, is a distributing point for all the west end of our county and only clerk-hire sufficient to half pay one good clerk. I hope we will soon have relief."

Col. E. P. Linzee, P. M., Pierce City, Mo., says: "I learn from Risley that you will leave for Washington in a few days, so I send you some letters of introduction to several you will need to know. I am of the opinion that you will not have funds sufficient to do what you will find it necessary to do, but we must not let the matter drop now after having accomplished so much good, and if you run short of money, select one hundred names of P. M.'s who have evinced a liberality in the matter so far and send to them for $5 each. *I send you herewith my five dollars, and if you have to go down into your own pockets draw on me for five more.* Would be glad to have you report progress ocsionally." (The above is a specimen of liberality and generosity seldom met with, and we commend it to P. M 's generally. Col. **Linzee** is not only a grand man as a public officer, but is a most accomplished gentleman and made a fine impression upon the Convention.—Ed. U. S. **Mail**.)

R. C. Tucker, P. M., Burning Springs, West Va., says: "The March number of your valuable paper is just at hand, and I would remark that I would not be without it for five times its cost. I feel guilty in not sooner sending the small amount asked for by the Committee, but better late than never. I inclose you $2, which you can use where it will do the most good. I was appointed under the new administration, taking charge June 2d, 1885. My office is at the head of three routes and the terminus of one. I receive fifteen mails per week, and dispatch as many more, and all of them very large. I bought an entire new outfit for the office, for which I paid $600 cash. I or my assistant are either one in the office from 6:30 A.M., until 10 P.M., while the compensation is never over $60 per quarter, box-rents and all. Of course I have other means of support or I could not live. I will add, in conclusion, *push* the good work, and, whether you succeed or fail, all fair-minded men will commend the motive that prompted you to make the effort.

The handsomest blonde in Washington is a clerk in the office of Chief Clerk **Nash**.

Postal is the name of the Captain of one of the mail-packets on the Mississippi River.

A **general** fight is in progress in Greensburg, Ind., over the proposed change in the *site* of the post-office.

Mr. W. A. Milligan, P. M., Coultersville, Ill., was married March 9th to Miss **Annie Sorrels**, the handsomest belle of the village.

Mr. J. A. Button, P. M., Alden, Ia., is not in favor of the Department owning the boxes at either third or fourth class offices, and we coincide with him.

The post-office at Hempstead, Tex., was robbed during the night of March 21st, and $900 taken. The safe at the post-office at M'Cluney Station, Ohio, was broken into, April 1st, and robbed of $94.50.

Among the most genial and socially inclined gentlemen connected with the Post-office Department at Washington are Chief Clerk **Nash** and Chief P. O. Inspector **West**. Their largeness of soul was born in them.

It did our soul good to meet that grand, good man, **General Bryant**, during our recent visit to Washington. The Almighty put His stamp of pleasure upon his very countenance so that all who see him might read: "This is an honest and a good man."

THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

An Appeal to Postmasters of the Third and Fourth Class.

Dear Brethren:

At the Postmasters' National Convention recently in session at the Grand Opera House, Chicago, at which there were representatives from twenty-three States and Territories, the undersigned were designated to act as the National Executive Committee of the Postmasters' National Association, and to us has been confided the duty of carrying out the wishes of the late Convention. Officers have been elected for the ensuing year, and a vigorous effort will be made at once to formulate and carry out the work so auspiciously begun by the Convention.

A special committee of three has been appointed to prepare a Memorial to Congress, embodying the suggestions and recommendations of the Convention, and the same committee has been ordered to proceed to Washington and personally present the Memorial to the Senate and House, and urge its claims to legislative action. While that committee will try and avoid all indecent haste in making its appearance at the Capital, yet it is expected to be ready to depart at a date not later than March 15th.

That relief will come to us we have no doubt, and speedily at that, for we are glad to recognize a spirit of fairness and justice not only among the people at large, but it has also already become manifest in the halls of Congress. We do not think, therefore, that our late coming together will be in vain, for we are confident of success in our endeavors to ameliorate our condition.

Money is required, AND AT ONCE, to carry on the work delegated to the National Executive Committee; and, indeed, we can do nothing without it, and we *appeal* to you to make the necessary contribution. The present is a critical moment in the history of this movement. *Hesitation upon your part may cost us much!* It is not just or equitable that a handful of men shall bear the burden of this expense. If each one of you will do his duty, the work we have in hand will have been greatly simplified and facilitated.

We have, by unanimous vote, decided to ask all third-class postmasters to send us $2, and all of the fourth-class $1. All remittances should be sent to **John H. Patterson**, Editor *United States Mail*, Box 635, Chicago, Ill., who is the Treasurer of this Committee, and who is empowered to send a receipt to all contributors.

The Postmasters' National Association has now a permanent existence. The next annual meeting will be held in Chicago, on Wednesday, June 9th, 1887.

Brethren, will you join us in this movement for "equal and exact justice"?

By order of the National Executive Committee.

L. Hensley Grubbs, P. M., Decatur, Ala.
R. P. Pulliam, P. M., Eureka Springs, Ark.
J. B. Roberts, P. M., Sandersville, Ga.
J. T. Brady, P. M., Walcott, Ind.
L. J. Sacriste, P. M., La Grange, Ill.
Geo. F. Crouch, P. M., Oxford Junction, Iowa.
H. C. Carter, P. M., Baldwin City, Kan.
W. F. Howe, P. M., Leominster, Mass.
J. C. Hussey, P. M., Neehart, Mon. Terr.
Neil Currie, P. M., Currie, Min.
J. W. McMaster, P. M., Hazlehurst, Miss.
W. T. B. Schemerhorn, P. M., Hudson, Mich.
E. P. Linzee, Pierce City, Mo.
L. A. Simmons, P. M., Cortland, Neb.
F. H. Daniell, P. M., Franklin Falls, N. H.
Miss Emma J. Porter, P. M., Sommerville, N. J.
W. D. Hoyt, P. M., Middleport, N. Y.
J. G. Herzog, P. M., Loudonville, Ohio.
M. W. Loftus, P. M., Moosic, Pa.
W. R. Andrews, P. M., Union City, Tenn.
T. G. Brady, P. M., Buckhannon, West Va.
W. H. Cannon, P. M., Merrill, Wis.
A. B. Baker, P. M., Aurora, Dak.
John Carlovitz, P. M., Milton, Fla.
R. H. Piatt, P. M., Napa City, Cal.
John H. Patterson, *U. S. Mail*, Chicago, Ill.

Advisory Committee:

J. G. Johnson, P. M., Peabody, Kan.
E. I. Morse, P. M., Osborn, Mo.
J. M. Rolston, P. M., Kensington, Ill.
John Parsons, P. M., Black River Falls, Wis.
Daniel E. Soper, P. M., Newago, Mich.

Memorial Committee:

John H. Patterson, Chicago, Ill.
J. G. Johnson, Peabody, Kan.
Sam. A. Risley, West Plains, Mo.

Officers:

L. J. Sacriste, *President.*
J. G. Herzog, *Secretary.*
John H. Patterson, *Treasurer.*

Answers to Correspondents.

Questions pertaining to the postal service will be answered in this column, and should be written on separate pieces of paper from business correspondence.

All should feel free to address letters of inquiry as often as necessity may require.

Answers will be made by mail when desired, if postage is inclosed. Letters of inquiry, only, should be addressed to JOHN H. PATTERSON, *Editor* U. S. MAIL, *Chicago, Ill.*

CENTRAL PARK.—You ask whether there is a law regulating the distance that shall exist between post-offices, and we answer, No ! It is altogether a matter subject to the decision of the Department.

SUNSET.—It is *not* unlawful for one man to write another on a postal-card threatening prosecution or suit, that is, so far as postal laws are concerned. State courts can decide the *animus* of such things.

LAURENCEVILLE.—You ask which is the best kind of ink to be used in canceling and postmarking, and we answer that the regulations *direct* you to use *black printing ink*. We scarcely know which is the best *pad*, as there are several good ones on the market.

SALEM.—A letter addressed to one person in the care of another may be forwarded without any extra postage, even though it has already been delivered to the person in whose care it was addressed, and held longer than is indicated by a return request thereon.

GENESEE.—Postmasters must disregard all orders to forward letters that are signed by any other than the party named in the address on the matter to be forwarded, unless it be an order from a husband whose wife has not given orders to the contrary. An order from any one to forward mail matter is always considered good until *revoked*.

ATHENS.—You ask what is the postage on photographs, and we answer 1 cent for each 2 ounces, or fraction thereof. They are now in the third-class. The postage on letters to New South Wales is 12 cents for each ½ ounce, prepayment compulsory. They should not be sent to San Francisco at all, but to New York. Postage to Australia *via* San Francisco is 5 cents per ½ ounce, prepayment compulsory.

FIFE LAKE.—You want to know whether a mail messenger, employed in carrying the mail between the post-office and the trains, would, in the eye of the law, be considered a *disinterested* witness to remittances of surplus money-order funds, and we answer, No ! we do not think he would. There are several reasons why he would not, which we have not the time to recite.

WINONA.—You ask under what circumstances may books be sent at the rate of four cents per pound ; and we answer, under *no circumstances* can they be sent at such a rate. Books belong to third-class matter, and are mailable only at the rate of one cent for each and every two ounces or fraction thereof. There is no limit to the weight of any *one* book. It may weigh four pounds or ten pounds, or any other sum, only so it is in one single volume. All other third-class matter, however, is limited to four pounds in weight.

HILLSBORO.—You ask (1) in registering to Canada is it correct to register first to Chicago or direct to Canada? We answer, according to location. Read page 662 of *Postal Guide* for 1886. You ask (2) in case of dead postal cards remaining in the office, how are they to be disposed of? We answer that, if they are wholly written, they should be sent to the Dead Letter Office at the end of thirty days. If partly written and partly printed, put them into the waste bag. You ask (3) whether newspapers and circulars can be forwarded, and we answer, Yes ! but they must be charged up with postage due by affixing the proper stamp.

PHILMONT.—You ask what offices a postmaster may hold in addition to that of postmaster. A first, second and third class postmaster may also be a Justice of the Peace, a Notary Public or a Commissioner to take acknowledgments of deeds. He may be a member of a Board of Education or an officer or private in the State militia ; but he cannot be a member of a City Council or Board of Aldermen. A fourth-class postmaster, however, is permitted to hold *any* additional office he can clinch upon. He may rise to a City Councilman, or a State Legislator ; he may be the Sheriff, Auditor or Coroner, and yet preserve his office as P. M., which is greater than all.

VICTORIA.—Drafts, wholly or partly in writing, are first-class matter, and so, also, are drawings, etchings, insurance policies, contracts, books when they contain written inscriptions, and *printed* letters when they bear evidence of being intended for but one person. A diary with entries is also first-class matter.

EDGERTON.—You ask whether there is any way to prevent smoking in a post-office, and we answer, Yes ! You can make a rule to that effect and compel obedience to it. A refusal to obey could be considered a misdemeanor, and the local authorities could be called upon to protect you. We would remark, however, that we know of no post-office where that rule is rigidly enforced.

HARVEY WILEY.—You ask whether you, as a letter carrier, are entitled to perform but eight hours' work under the present law, and we answer that there is no law governing the hours of labor of letter-carriers. That is regulated by each postmaster according to the work of the office. A Bill has just been introduced into Congress, however, fixing your day's duty at eight hours.

SALUVIA.—You ask (1) whether it is the duty of the postmaster to go outside of his office (the building) and receive the mail-pouch from the carrier, and we answer, No ! it is the duty of the carrier to *bring it into the office.* You ask (2) whether you are compelled to get up out of bed at any hour *between* four and six o'clock in the morning to receive and change the mail to accommodate a carrier when the schedule time is six o'clock, and we answer, No ! If it was, what would be the use of a schedule at all ?

ELLSWORTH.—You want to know whether it is proper to *advertise postal-cards.* In reply we would say that the custom appears to be divided. Some post-masters do, and some do not. Postal-cards wholly written are treated in some respects (but not all) as first-class matter ; that is, the Regulations prescribe it at least in so far as their *handling* is concerned, but that is about all, for there is no law nor Department rule that they shall be advertised, nor can they be forwarded from one post-office to another without an additional rate of postage being charged, so that it would seem that they *are* first-class matter and yet are *not.* See third question of "Hillsboro," above.

NO NAME.—You ask if letters found in the letter-box *unsealed* with only a one-cent stamp affixed, and the postmaster has suspicion that it is *written matter*, what should he do? We scarcely know what you mean. If the envelopes are unsealed he can examine and see for himself. If the name of the writer is affixed, and he is known, he could be notified that the lettters are there and are held for postage. If the writer is not known, then the person addressed could be notified to the same effect. If a man *persistently* places letters in a post-office box and only affixes a one-cent stamp on each piece, it would be good evidence that he was seeking to break the law, and he could be proceeded against accordingly.

DIXON.—You ask (1) would a publisher be permitted to use the inclosed notice to paste it on bundles of sample copies of his paper, and we answer, No ! neither that notice nor any other. Publishers who send out their papers at second-class rates are not permitted to inclose any handbills or circulars, nor make any announcements not printed in the *body* of the paper. If they do, they subject them to third-class rates. The *American Agriculturist* recently inclosed two circulars going to their exchanges, and had they been caught at it by the New York office, they would have been hauled up and made to pay for the little trick. You ask (2) whether a postmaster who has an assistant to transact the business in the postmaster's absence, and wants him to attend to the money-order business also, is it necessary for the Department to forward certificate of authorization before the assistant can legally do the money-order business, and we answer, No !

LETTER ADDRESSES.

OH ! those to whom is given by men
To carry missives to and fro,
Quick ! take this effort of my pen,
And bear it hence to Ohio.

In Licking County a village fair,
As Granville known, is situate ;
Take this to S. H. Collins there,
And bid him o'er it meditate.

Speed, speed, oh, letter ! speed away
To Benton County, Iowa.
At Blair'stown stop, no further go,
But call for Thompson, William O.
He'll welcome thee, and treat thee better
Than any other man, oh, letter !

OBITUARY.

DIED at Huron, Ohio, on March 25th, of typhoid pneumonia, Stark Wilbor, a head clerk in the N. Y. and Chicago R. P. O.

He was buried on March 28th, with Masonic honors, followed by a large concourse of citizens, and a delegation of postal clerks from the N. Y. and Chicago line, numbering over twenty, which on re-assembling after the funeral services, passed the following resolutions of respect :

Whereas, in consideration of the eminent regard we held for our late associate, and his untimely death, be it therefore

Resolved, That we deeply deplore the early death of one who by his manly bearing, strict integrity and rare social qualities, had endeared himself to all.

Resolved, That in his death we have lost a true friend, the Government an efficient, conscientious and faithful officer, his family a kind husband and father, and society an honorable, upright man.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished to his family, and one for publication.

C. O. INGERSOLL
J. F. ALLEN } *Committee.*
D. M. WELLES.

Advertisements.

Advertisements of a character suitable to THE UNITED STATES MAIL *will hereafter be accepted at the rate of* **50** *cents per agate line, payment to be made in advance.*

WANTED—SITUATIONS.

ANY NEWLY APPOINTED POSTMASTER WHO desires the services of a capable, honest and reliable assistant in his office, can secure such a one by addressing Box 635, Chicago, Ill.

A **YOUNG LADY,** COMPETENT TO MANAGE A second-class Post-office, who is thoroughly versed in Post-office regulations, would be pleased to correspond with some newly appointed Postmaster who needs a reliable assistant. Address, Box 298, Bridgewater, Mass.

TO POSTMASTERS.

P. O. BOX-RENT ACCOUNT BOOK — NEW, enlarged and improved edition just published. 1,000 accounts easily kept in it ; lasts six years to each name. Send for circular. Price of book only $1.00. Address, T. C. KEYES, P. M.,
Newberry, Vt.

EVERY POSTMASTER

NEEDS "The American Postmasters' Complete Record." Five different departments bound in one book. Everything relating to the business of a fourth-class office can be kept in this complete record for the period of four years. Cancellation of Stamps, all supplies and expenditures, Box-rents, Dead Letters, Arrival and Departures of Mails, etc. Get one at once. Sent postpaid, $2.50. Cash must accompany order.

J. S. B. HARTSOCK, Publisher,
Mention this paper. Frederick City, Md.

THE MOST PROFITABLE PUBLICATIONS
FOR POSTMASTERS AND AGENTS
ARE THOSE OF

Frank Leslie's Publishing House

—THE—
Most Brilliant Illustrated Publications
IN THE WORLD.

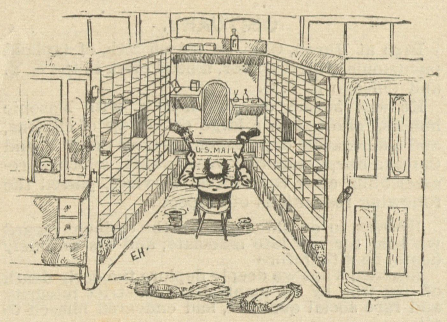
☞ A subscriber may be found in every family for one or more periodicals from the following list. Note the extent and variety :

Frank Leslie's Illust. Newspaper (W'kly) The only Pictorial Record of Current Events. Devoted to News, Literature, Art and Science.	**$4.00**
Frank Leslie's Illust. Zeitung (Weekly) (In the German Language.) A Weekly Compendium of News and Literature.	**4.00**
Frank Leslie's Sunday Magazine (M'thly) REV. T. DEWITT TALMAGE, D.D., Editor. The Best Pictorial Religious Periodical.	**2.50**
Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly. . . The Cheapest and Most Attractive Magazine.	**3.00**
Frank Leslie's Pleasant Hours (Monthly) Cheap and Entertaining. Devoted to Fiction. Every Article Complete.	**1.75**
Frank Leslie's Budget (Monthly). . . . . . A Magazine of Wit, Humor, Anecdote and Adventure.	**2.25**

Specimen Copies of each of the above sent for 30 *cents.*

Forward net amount by Money Order or Registered Letter. In sending subscriptions or corresponding, be careful to send name and address in full, also name of paper. Send cash with order.

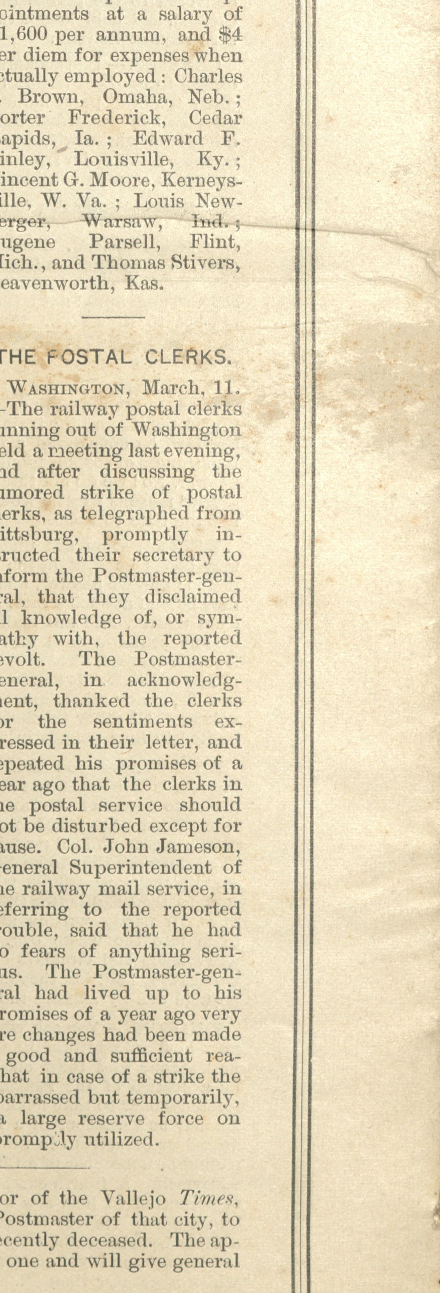
Mrs. FRANK LESLIE, Publisher,
[P. O. Box 3706.] 53, 55 & 57 PARK PLACE, New York.

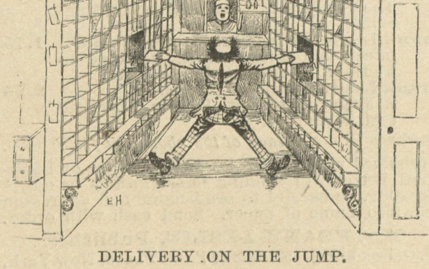


THE HOUR OF EASE.

A MAIL ROBBER CONVICTED.

Jefferson, Tex. Feb. 24.—The United States District Court has been engaged for a week on the trial of A. W. Adleta, a postal clerk, charged with opening a registered letter and stealing the contents therefrom. It was developed that Adleta had plundered registered letters at various times of money, aggregating over $4,000, and that Post Office Inspector Geo. A. Dice had resorted to the usual method of test letters in order to entrap him. The money was placed in the letters in presence of witnesses, and the money was in the letters when they came into Adleta's hands on the 8th day of May, 1885, and was not therein when delivered by him at the terminus of his run, but was found in a blank envelope hidden away under the lining of his valise, inclosing $200 besides. Adleta admitted his crime shortly after his arrest, and subsequently made an order on the Inspector for the $200, claiming it was his own. All implements necessary to open and seal letters, such as a sharpened penholder, sponge, tweezers and mucilage brush, were found in Adleta's private office. The defendant is possessed of means, and used them lavishly in the employment of able counsel, viz: Messrs. Culberson and Culberson, H. M. McKay and Camp, who brought to bear every pressure and influence their fertile ingenuity could suggest. The Government was represented by Hon. J. E. McComb, United States Attorney, and Hon. W. T. Armistead, the latter special counsel, who prosecuted the case with signal ability. The good people of the community heartily indorse Mr. Dice's course in the use of test letters to catch the offender. The jury, after deliberating thirty-six hours, returned a verdict of guilty. Two more indictments stand against him in which the evidence will be the same or stronger. The Court will pronounce sentence upon him in a few days.—*Globe-Democrat*.

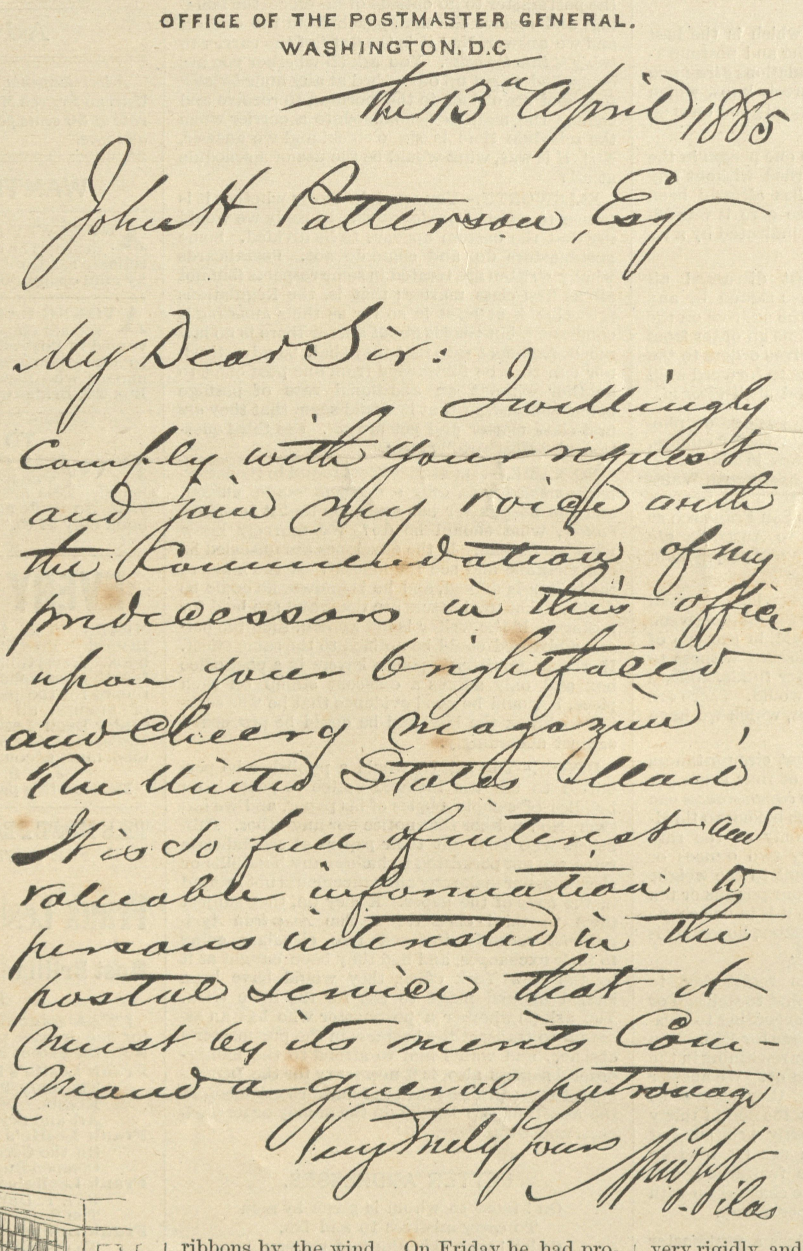




DELIVERY ON THE JUMP.

MAIL CARRYING IN THE FAR EAST.

Captain William S. Humphrey, who conveys the mail from Monhegan to Boothbay, Massachusetts, started from Monhegan on Tuesday morning with the thermometer 15 degrees below zero and the vapor so thick that it was impossible to see, in his boat with one man. They had proceeded nearly half way to Boothbay, when, in reefing the mainsail, the man with him was knocked into the water and rescued with the greatest difficulty, making it necessary to return to port. On Wednesday, with the mercury and vapor the same, he again attempted to reach Boothbay, when his bowsprit and jib were carried away by the gale. On Thursday his mainsail was torn to ribbons by the wind. On Friday he had proceeded quite a distance when he was knocked down by the sea and his boat nearly filled with water. On Saturday he arrived in Boothbay, having hired a vessel to take him there.—*Philadelphia News*.



OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.
WASHINGTON, D.C

the 13th April 1885

John H Patterson, Esq

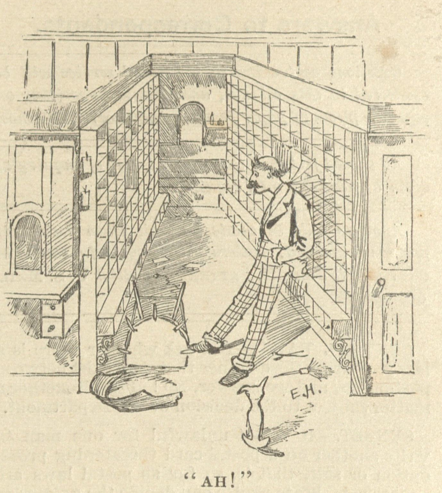
My Dear Sir:

I willingly comply with your request and join my voice with the commendation of my predecessor in this office upon your bright faced and cheery magazine, The United States Mail. It is so full of interest and valuable information to persons interested in the postal service that it must by its merits command a general patronage.

Very truly yours
Wm F Vilas

POST OFFICE INSPECTORS APPOINTED ON PROBATION.

Washington, February 23.—The following named candidates, having passed a satisfactory civil service examination, have received probationary appointments as Post-office Inspectors, at a salary of $1,200 per annum, and $4 per diem for expenses when actually employed. At the end of the probationary term of six months, if their work shall have been satisfactory, they will receive permanent appointments at a salary of $1,600 per annum, and $4 per diem for expenses when actually employed: Charles J. Brown, Omaha, Neb.; Porter Frederick, Cedar Rapids, Ia.; Edward F. Finley, Louisville, Ky.; Vincent G. Moore, Kerneysville, W. Va.; Louis Newberger, Warsaw, Ind.; Eugene Parsell, Flint, Mich., and Thomas Stivers, Leavenworth, Kas.



"AH!"

THE POSTAL CLERKS.

Washington, March, 11.—The railway postal clerks running out of Washington held a meeting last evening, and after discussing the rumored strike of postal clerks, as telegraphed from Pittsburg, promptly instructed their secretary to inform the Postmaster-general, that they disclaimed all knowledge of, or sympathy with, the reported revolt. The Postmaster-general, in acknowledgment, thanked the clerks for the sentiments expressed in their letter, and repeated his promises of a year ago that the clerks in the postal service should not be disturbed except for cause. Col. John Jameson, General Superintendent of the railway mail service, in referring to the reported trouble, said that he had no fears of anything serious. The Postmaster-general had lived up to his promises of a year ago very rigidly, and where changes had been made they were made for good and sufficient reasons. He also said that in case of a strike the service would be embarrassed but temporarily, as there is always a large reserve force on hand which can be promptly utilized.

George Roe, editor of the Vallejo *Times*, has been appointed Postmaster of that city, to succeed his father, recently deceased. The appointment is a good one and will give general satisfaction.